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VANCOUVER WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

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Celebrity Buzz

**Chan's
remarks
cause
stir**



pg 34

Canada pg 6



**RCMP changes
tune on YVR case**

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

GoGreen

**Metro is marking
Earth Day with
a series of articles
to get you
to Go Green:
COMMENT
AND VIEWS.**



Paul Sullivan weighs in on what a fatter planet will mean for the environment. Page 12.

GO GREEN. Metro's special Earth Day section takes a look at environmental issues around the world — from what changing climates mean to wine producers, to the effect plastic is having on our oceans. Pages 13-16.

METRO DRIVE. We take a look at Toyota's reinvented Prius hybrid. Page 25.

ENTERTAINMENT. Our movie reviewer takes a look at the new documentary Earth, and Harrison Ford lets us in on his new green initiative. Page 30.

ONLINE. Visit metronews.ca for more Earth Day stories.

ONLINE. Visit metronews.ca for more Earth Day stories.

Please recycle



Happy Earth Day

Albert Einstein famously predicted that if bees were to cease to exist, humans could last only four years after the last bee died.

A shocking estimation, but these pollinators truly make our ecosystems work.

What's frightening is that the

world's pollinators, predators, prey, vegetation and oceans that we rely on for food, oxygen and water are at risk.

Which is precisely why Metro is dedicating this year's annual Green Metro to the topic of biodiversity — a term that, quite simply put, means the vast variety of plants, animals and natural resources found on Earth.

Like bees.

So read on — and plant a garden. Ride your bike. Remember the oceans, the bees, the worms — they are your neighbours ... and our heroes.

MAGGIE SAMWAYS/METRO WORLD NEWS

**Canucks
sweep into
next round**

PLAYOFFS Break out the dustpans.

For the first time since they entered the league in 1970, the Vancouver Canucks have swept a playoff series, besting the Blues with a 3-2 overtime victory in St. Louis last night.

The team will now have up to a week and a half of rest before they take on their yet-to-be-determined opponent.

"We just found a way every game," Canucks forward Alex Burrows told CBC's Scott Oake following the win.

"It feels good. Now we'll be able to rest."

Burrows scored twice in the game and netted the overtime winner, beating Blues goalie Chris Mason fivehole with less than 20 seconds remaining in the first overtime period. Kyle Wellwood opened the scoring for the Canucks. Roberto Luon-go stopped 47 shots in the win.

METRO VANCOUVER
MORE COVERAGE, PG 20



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PREMIERES TOMORROW AT 10 AM*

*In order to accommodate as many customers as possible, Matthew Williamson for H&M will be limited to two pieces of the same style per customer.

Shrub may spell relief for diabetes

Researchers at SFU are examining a Sri Lankan climbing shrub as a possible therapeutic treatment for people with Type 2 diabetes. The researchers identified two active compounds in the wood that slow the reaction of enzymes in the small intestine, and thereby reduce blood glucose levels following a meal. **METRO VANCOUVER**

3

Local



(B)un-official poll

The New Democrats are leading the B.C. Liberals, according to New Westminster's Burger Heaven's "(B)un-official" 2009 election poll. After the first week, 51 per cent of eaters chose the Carole James burger, while 35 per cent chose the Campbell burger. Another seven per cent chose the Jane Sterk burger.

METRO VANCOUVER

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9 Tonight



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ROGERS

Pushing real democracy

MINÉ SALKIN
for Metro Vancouver

Green party Leader Elizabeth May says three decades of failed politics have resulted in widespread disenchantment of the Canadian political system.

"It wasn't always like this," said May in Vancouver yesterday. "But people are disgusted with how federal politics are."

Her solution to the "depressive" political position is to restore real democracy to Canadians and to create fairness in the tax system.

Canadians and to create fairness in the tax system.



Federal Green party Leader Elizabeth May in Emery Barnes Park in Vancouver yesterday. Her new book, *Losing Confidence*, exposes the failings of the Canadian political system.

"The system now is perverse in its results. It undermines real democracy," she said.

May is a supporter for BC-STV (Single Transferable Vote), a "practical" system that she hopes will show Canadians "every vote counts."

May has been an environmentalist since the age of 12, when her family's sheep died due to pesticide poisoning.

Environmental reforms, namely the adjustment of carbon prices, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost the economy,

she said.

"If the prices are adjusted appropriately, the economy will respond with energy-efficient solutions to the global financial crisis."

"We need to find a way to change our polluting ways, and to replace dirty energy."

Massive annual shoe sale kicks off today

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

FOOTWEAR Hundreds of women will forgo their beauty sleep this morning to have first pick at Vancouver's biggest annual shoe sale.

The doors at Army & Navy's Cordova Street store will open at 8 a.m. — an hour and a half early — to let the early birds get the proverbial worm; in this case a limited supply of one-of-a-kind shoes at bargain basement prices.

"We do the countdown on the P.A., open the doors and the crowd just comes roaring in," said Silvio Urbani, the store's footwear buyer.

"For \$100 you can walk

"For \$100 you can walk away with five or six pairs."

Silvio Urbani

away with five or six pairs of shoes."

The sale runs until May 3, and features nearly 100,000 brand name shoes.

Walter Steiger shoes — which run retail from \$500 to \$1,000 — will be on sale for \$49.99. Another style worn by Sarah Palin is going for \$29.99.

"Not every style hits the floor all at once," Urbani said, adding that bargain hunters might want to come back several times.

As for next year's sale, Urbani said he's already started shopping.

Three men charged with plot to kill Bacon brothers

PLOT An alleged United Nations gang leader has been charged with plotting to kill the Bacon brothers, homicide investigators said yesterday.

Barzan Tilli-Choli, 26, of Vancouver is among three men charged with conspiracy to murder the Basons and their associates in a March shooting outside a Surrey strip club.

Alleged UN associate Aram Ali, 23, of Vancouver, and Karwan Saed, 32, an alleged gang member, of Burnaby, were also charged.

In custody

• All three men were in custody at the time on charges that included attempted murder and accessory to the crime after the fact.

Cpl. Dale Carr, a spokesman for the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, said the investigation is complex, long-term and requires extensive resources.

METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Tamil protesters rally on Parliament Hill, at metronews.ca/canada

Video Hijacked flight passengers reunite with family, at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs Kenya Hunt weighs in on the Susan Boyle makeover debate. The Britain's Got Talent contestant wowed audiences with her amazing voice despite a less than stunning appearance.



Police issue distraction-theft warning for tourist areas

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

SCAM Vancouver police are warning the public about a group of thieves that may be targeting tourist spots, restaurants and shopping areas in the city.

A Japanese tourist and her husband were shopping on Granville Island on Monday afternoon when a man approached

her and offered to help get ketchup off her jacket, Const. Anne Longley said yesterday.

"He suggested that she should remove both her jacket and her purse and then proceeded to clean her jacket," Longley said.

"He then left very quickly and when she took her purse back she discovered her wallet was missing."

The victim described the man as well dressed in

a suit and tie and "extremely polite."

Longley said the robbery is similar to a rash of "distraction thefts" that happened in the fall, involving spilled ketchup or mustard.

"We believe this person may be part of a group that's very mobile," she said. "There appear to be numerous people involved in this type of distraction theft."

News in brief

DEATH A Lower Mainland man died yesterday morning when an eastbound three-tonne van jumped the median and slammed head-on into his westbound car on Marine Way in Burnaby. Mounties closed Marine Way between Glenlyon

Parkway and Byrne Road while a collision expert surveyed the scene. Two men in the van were taken to Burnaby General Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

SHOOTING An Abbotsford man was taken to hospital

yesterday morning after he was shot in the leg in an apartment in the 2100 block of McKenzie Road. Police said there is no evidence that the shooting was gang-related and that early indications were that the two men knew each other.

OLYMPIC SECURITY Security personnel for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics will live aboard a trio of cruise ships, the RCMP said yesterday. Contracts, totalling \$76 million, were issued to Holland America and Carnival Cruise Lines to

supply three vessels that will be docked in Vancouver during the Games. The ships will provide basic hotel accommodation. Rooms that are usually used for entertainment will instead be used for meetings.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ryan Conroy, Green party candidate for Vancouver-Hastings, is running the Baden-Powell trail through the North Shore Mountains to raise funds for his election campaign. The 100 Miles of Agony fundraiser allows supporters to sponsor Conroy per mile as he attempts to run 100 miles across the mountains. **METRO VANCOUVER**

System failures root of crime: Leaders

Mayors, police chief say short sentences, lack of counselling, drugs create breeding ground

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The plague of violence that's swept over the Lower Mainland won't get better without more collaboration between the judicial, health-care and social systems, according to a panel of civic leaders.

Police Chief Const. Jim Chu as well as Vancouver and Surrey mayors Gregor Robertson and Dianne Watts spoke at a Board of Trade luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver yesterday on crime and

policing.

The trio said that a revolving door-style judicial system that doesn't focus enough on prevention or addictions counselling is keeping criminals on the streets.

"It's about dealing with social problems and root causes that we know lead to crime," said Robertson.

"Co-ordination of health and social services is helping offenders ... get access to housing, health care and addictions treatment."

A Statistics Canada study released yesterday found that Vancouver has the

Safety concerns

• British Columbians ranked public safety as their second greatest concern after the economy, according to an Angus Reid poll released on April 7.

third highest rate of "severe" police-reported crime out of Canada's major cities.

Chu said a thriving drug trade coupled with lenient sentencing has created a breeding ground for chronic offenders and is fuelling

that crime rate.

"We have a large number of criminals who normally would have grown out of a life of crime ... but instead they became addicts," Chu said.

The issue, he said, isn't that police don't make enough arrests but that sentences are so short it "defies all logic."

"It comes down to political will and money," added Watts. "The most important thing we could ever do is early childhood prevention. If we ever expect a generational change we need to start there."



Chief Const. Jim Chu speaks at a Board of Trade luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver yesterday, while Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson listen.

News in brief

FOR SALE B.C. Ferries now has three surplus vessels for sale, the ferry corporation said yesterday, after the decommissioning of the Queen of Prince Rupert on Monday. Money from the sale of the vessels will be put towards terminal upgrades, said a spokesperson.

TAXES Vancouver COPE councillors David Cadman and Ellen Woodsworth are opposed to a proposed property tax re-distribution that would see one per cent of the city's tax burden shifted from commercial to residential property owners. Residential property taxes would jump 7.89 per cent and non-residential property taxes would increase by 3.87 per cent.

CARBON B.C.'s Green party wants to increase the province's carbon tax to \$50 per tonne of carbon emissions. The carbon tax is currently \$15 per tonne of carbon. Tax revenues, the party said, would be used to reduce income and payroll taxes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Clubs for Kids Ready for the greens



B.C. Lions slotback Geroy Simon gets a lesson from master golf coach David Leadbetter at Granville Square in Vancouver yesterday. The event raised money for Clubs for Kids while launching Callaway's free lesson promotion.

Duo to film power of soccer in Uganda

KELSEA BLOXAM
for Metro Vancouver

Two Vancouverites are heading to Uganda in the hopes of rebuilding the war-torn country through the power of soccer.

Vancouver Film School (VFS) graduates, Angela Buhr and Mohamed A. Soliman, will document the six-week project run by B.C.-based Opportunitas Aequa.

The organization hopes to run two week-long soccer camps for Ugandan youths as well as to provide training for local coaches.

For Soliman the experience is about "getting involved on a personal level, being able to tell personal stories about these kids."

The project will be documented through an online video series broadcast by Opportunitas Aequa's

YouTube channel.

Buhr said the online video series would give their audience "a certain level of transparency. It allows people to see where the money is going each day."

Viewers will be able to track the experience from day one making it easier to get involved. VFS has supported the pair in all aspects of the trip, from vaccinations, meals and living expenses to equipment.

Buhr and Mohamed will stay in what Mohamed describes as a "one-star hotel, basically just a mattress."

This is the third joint project for Opportunitas Aequa and the VFS.

The organization boasts using "soccer as its weapon of choice because of its universality, its simplicity, and its significance to the organization's members" according to their website.

YouTube track

• People interested in tracking Buhr and Soliman's experience can log onto Opportunitas Aequa's YouTube channel at youtube.com/OAFilms.

Women offer support in escaping abuse

MINÉ SALKIN
for Metro Vancouver

ABUSE Women who have escaped the clutches of abuse hosted an event last night to raise awareness about violence against women.

The event, Rewriting Our Own Futures, featured seven women from the YWCA Munroe House, a transition home that supports women and their families leaving abusive relationships.

Lisa Rupert, manager of Monroe House, said that the event hoped to educate people. Five out of the seven women sharing their experiences have been the victims of sexual abuse.

"... we want people to know what a profound change it can be to an abused woman when she decides to leave the relationship."

Lisa Rupert, manager of Monroe House

"It helps other women who may be thinking about leaving an abusive relationship," she said.

"Abuse is still happening, and we want people to know what a profound change it can be to an abused woman when she decides to leave the relationship."

Girls sought in knifepoint theft

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

INVESTIGATION Police are asking the public for help in finding three girls who robbed a woman at knifepoint near the 29th Avenue SkyTrain station.

The 39-year-old victim was walking to the station around 9 p.m. on Monday when she was approached by three girls, Const. Anne Longley said yesterday.

"One of them pulled out a

large knife and demanded she hand over her cash," Longley said. "The woman handed over her purse and the girls ran south on Earles Street."

Police and tracking dogs were called but were unable to find the suspects.

The victim was uninjured and her purse was later found in a ditch near the SkyTrain Station.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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3343 West Broadway
2748 Rupert St.
1 - 525 Seymour St.
150 - 625 Howe St.
105 - 950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
10 - 3490 Kingsway

Aldergrove

310 - 26310 Fraser Hwy.

Abbotsford

Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
2 - 32915 South Fraser Way
1 - 2142 Clearbrook Rd.
401 - 2140 Sumas Way

Burnaby

Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
214B - 4501 North Rd.
4711 Kingsway
7531 Market Crossing
111 - 3823 Henning Dr.
204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Chilliwack

Cottonwood Mall
103 - 45300 Luckakuck Way
11 - 45905 Yale Rd.
7544B Vedder Rd.

Cloverdale

201 - 17725 64th Ave.

Coquitlam

Coquitlam Centre
101 - 3278 Westwood St.
5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2700B Barnet Hwy.
22 - 2988 Glen Dr.
2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster

Royal City Centre

Delta

Scottsdale Mall
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley

Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
3 - 19638 Fraser Hwy.
103 - 19700 Langley Bypass
C104 - 20159 88th Ave.
19971 96th Ave.
C7 - 20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge

22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission

100 - 32670 Lougheed Hwy.
318 - 32555 London Ave.

North Vancouver

Capilano Mall
127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Port Moody

202 Newport Dr.

Pitt Meadows

735 - 19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond

Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Surrey

Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
201 - 13734 104th Ave.
135 - 12477 88th Ave.
2404 King George Hwy.
1675 128th St.
108 - 7380 King George Hwy.
403 - 15940 Fraser Hwy.
10310A 152nd St.

West Vancouver

Park Royal Shopping Centre
North/South

White Rock

Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
10 - 3189 King George Hwy.

OKANAGAN/NORTHERN BC

Aberdeen Mall (Kamloops)
Northhills Centre (Kamloops)
Orchard Park Mall (Kelowna)
Spall Plaza (Kelowna)
Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Penticton)
Pine Centre (Prince George)
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A Mexican family currently living in Whitehorse will be allowed to stay in Canada a few more months after federal authorities granted an extension on a deportation order that would have required them to return to their native country tomorrow. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Don't boo U.S. anthem: Gainey

Bob Gainey has appealed to Montreal Canadiens fans to stop booing the U.S. national anthem. The Canadiens coach and general manager said fans who booed during the Star-Spangled Banner ahead of Game 3 of their playoff series against the Boston Bruins should find other ways to voice their support. "I feel like there's a confusion there with our fans," Gainey said. "They feel like booing the anthem is supporting our team, in that the anthem represents the Boston team." **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

RCMP changes tune on Taser case

Mounties' chief no longer maintains Dziekanski had been 'combative'

After months of stonewalling and sticking to a now-discredited version of events surrounding the role of its officers in the death of Robert Dziekanski, RCMP commissioner William Elliott is signalling a change from the national police force.

The RCMP, in the closest it has come to acknowledging any mistakes, will tell an inquiry into the actions of its officers in the death of Dziekanski that "there are things that they would do differently," Elliott said.

The head of the Mounties, in his first sit-down newspaper interview after 21 months on the job, made it clear he is not con-

demning the four officers, especially in light of a recent comment by British Columbia's attorney general, who said that charges could still be laid.

But it was also clear the RCMP is attempting to take a different approach after months of steadfastly sticking to the official version of events that was made public immediately after the man's death.

They will no longer adhere to the view that the distraught Polish immigrant was "combative" and the officers acted in self-defence — a story which is now contradicted almost daily.

"We will make submissions to the inquiry," said



RCMP commissioner William Elliott speaks yesterday at RCMP headquarters in Ottawa. Elliott said the Mounties will no longer adhere to the view that Taser victim Robert Dziekanski was combative and that the officers involved acted in self-defence.

Elliott. "I think it's fair to say that we will say if we had to live life over again, and I'm sure that our members would say — I've never discussed this with

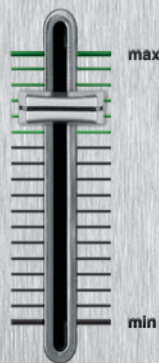
them because I've never discussed this incident with them — if they had to live life over again, there are things that they would do differently."

B.C. attorney general Wally Oppal told reporters last week the decision by Crown prosecutors in December not to lay charges against the four officers is

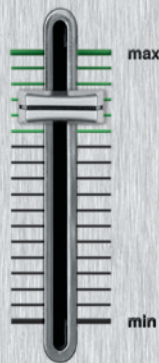
not final, and could be revisited based on evidence coming out of the inquiry.

"In the face of that, I don't think it's appropriate for me to comment on the conduct of our members," Elliott said. But he also went out of his way to state: "I'm also not doing what many accuse me of doing, which is defending them."

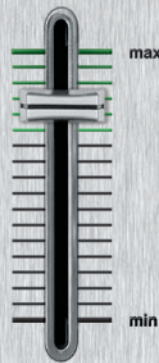
The comments, made in an interview in Elliott's office at RCMP headquarters, come amidst unprecedented scrutiny of the minute-by-minute decisions of the officers who confronted Dziekanski, and of the RCMP's decision to close ranks and defend their actions. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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G&T GRAND & TOY

Severity of overall crime down: StatsCan

A decrease in the number of break-ins sparked a drop in the severity of overall crime in a 10-year-period, while the seriousness of violent crimes remained stable, according to a new report by Statistics Canada. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

canada 7

Ottawa **Pro-Tamil protest**

Tamil protesters call for the Canadian government to intervene in the Sri Lankan conflict during a demonstration near the Centennial Flame in front of Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday. For 16 days, Tamil supporters from Ottawa and other cities have held demonstrations in the capital.

Ignatieff heads to D.C.

Liberal leader to take part in Afghanistan discussion

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is off to Washington to take part in an exclusive and high-level discussion on the future of Afghanistan.

Ignatieff will join Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and other diplomats and security experts at a closed-door, invitation-only meeting tomorrow looking at stabilizing the region through measures such as negotiating peace with the Taliban, reining in Pakistan, shutting down rampant drug production, and closer co-operation with Russia, Iran and other

"(Michael Ignatieff is attending) this (meeting) because ... the Canadian government hasn't been participating in this dialogue with the U.S., and he believes we should be."

Jill Fairbrother, spokesperson

neighbouring states.

The Liberal leader is participating as an international human rights expert, said Jill Fairbrother, his spokesperson.

Ignatieff has first-hand experience of the Taliban's reign in Afghanistan, having flown into Kabul on one of the first flights after the ultra-Islamic movement took power in 1997.

But he feels compelled to attend this event in particular because of what he perceives as the absence of the Conservative government in the debate about the future of the war-torn country.

"(He's attending) this one because he has something to say and the Canadian government hasn't been participating in this

dialogue with the U.S., and he believes we should be," Fairbrother said.

The Tories have hired high-powered communications operatives, such as former White House press secretaries Ari Fleischer and Mike McCurry, to land Prime Minister Stephen Harper interviews that will let him raise Canada's profile in the U.S. media.

But the government refused to follow the lead of the U.S. and name a special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan to better co-ordinate the future of the Afghan mission, drawing criticism in many quarters.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada rebukes U.S. 9-11 terrorism claims

BORDER The Canadian government moved yesterday to correct U.S. homeland security chief Janet Napolitano after she wrongly said some of the perpetrators of the 9-11 attacks had crossed into the United States from Canada.

Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan — who met with Napolitano in March — said his aides had contacted her office yesterday after she made the remarks to the CBC.

"She was well aware at that time (in March) and understood clearly that none of the 9-11 terrorists came across the Canadian border into the United

States ... We confirmed with her office this morning that she continues to be well aware of that," Van Loan told reporters.

Napolitano raised concerns in Canada with remarks indicating she wants to clamp down on border security, which businesses fear could throttle vital trade flows.

She told the CBC on Monday that "to the extent that terrorists have come into our country or suspected or known terrorists have entered our country across a border, it's been across the Canadian border."

REUTERS

Aide says he gave lift to Schreiber

INQUEST Brian Mulroney was so keen to see former arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber in June 1993 that his special aide gave Schreiber a lift to the prime minister's official summer residence, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

"I recall that meeting oc-

curing ... because I drove Mr. Schreiber to Harrington Lake," Paul Smith, Mulroney's executive assistant from 1991 to 1993, told the inquiry led by Justice Jeffrey O'Leary, which is probing Mulroney's controversial business relationship with Schreiber.

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Venezuela's top opposition leader Manuel Rosales has fled to Peru and requested political asylum to escape corruption charges he says are retaliation for his criticism of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. **REUTERS**

World



Kenyan wildlife declining

Numbers of wild grazing animals in Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve have fallen substantially in 15 years as wildlife competes with neighbouring human settlements, researchers said. A study published today in the *British Journal of Zoology* found six species — giraffes, hartebeest, impala, warthogs, topis and waterbuck — had declined "markedly and persistently" throughout the reserve. **REUTERS**

South Africans head to polls

Ruling ANC party likely winner, but faces tough opposition

Jacob Zuma called for a huge turnout for South Africa's election today to give his ruling African National Congress an overwhelming mandate in its toughest test since the end of apartheid.

Zuma is expected to become president after the ballot of 23 million South Africans, but the ANC risks losing the two-thirds majority in parliament it needs to change the constitution in the face of a new opposition party formed by ANC dissidents.

"We anticipate a massive turnout and we expect that the people of this country will once again give the ANC a huge and decisive mandate to work together with them to further improve their lives," he said.

Zuma, who had corruption charges against him dropped this month, declined to comment on his potential cabinet.

Businesses are worried Zuma may veer away from



An ANC election poster is seen on public toilets in the Kiptown informal settlement yesterday, a day before the South African election.

policies credited with delivering years of economic growth because he owes his rise to forces such as the trade unions on the left of the party. Zuma has

made assurances there will be no dramatic change of direction, and his room to move is limited by the global financial crisis.

Opposition parties have

been trying to capitalize on growing frustration with poverty, crime and AIDS, as well as concern about corruption in the nation. **REUTERS**

Sri Lankan troops move in on Tamil Tigers, 62,000 flee

CIVIL WAR Sri Lankan soldiers battled into the last redoubt of the rebel Tamil Tigers yesterday as the exodus of people fleeing the war zone reached more than 62,000, the military said.

The Red Cross warned the situation was "nothing short of catastrophic" and urged both sides to prevent further mass casualties among civilians, saying hundreds had been killed in the past 48 hours.

The neutral agency did not assign blame to either side.

The military's noon deadline for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to surrender passed without word from the separatists, who vowed no surrender hours later.

Sri Lanka's military, in what it dubbed the world's largest hostage-rescue operation, went in to keep the stream of people moving and give troops a clear shot at the LTTE.

"So far, 62,600 people have come out and still they are coming," military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said. **REUTERS**

Russia bows out of NATO meeting, but wants dialogue

GEORGIA Russia yesterday pulled out of a meeting with NATO military commanders next month but said it would stick to plans to resume political ties, a Russian diplomat and a NATO spokeswoman said.

Russia's envoy to NATO warned on Monday of a pull-out if the alliance went ahead with planned exercises in Georgia.

"We postponed the meeting of chiefs of staff," the Russian diplomat said, referring to the meeting scheduled for May 7 between the 28 NATO states and Russia. "We explained we should restart political dialogue before military co-operation."

Military exercise

- NATO says the scenario for the planned exercise will be a fictitious UN-mandated crisis-response operation and poses no security threat to Russia.

NATO spokeswoman Carmen Romero said the Russian military had made no mention of Georgia in announcing the move.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said last week that a planned land exercise in Georgia involving 1,300 NATO and partner troops from 19 countries could damage efforts to mend ties. **REUTERS**

News in brief

FRANCE Around 125 workers facing redundancy at a company in northeastern France detained five managers throughout last Thursday in the latest incident of French workers locking up their bosses to press their demands. By midnight, they let the managers walk free after gaining a promise for new proposals on redundancy talks. **REUTERS**

Obama nudges Netanyahu on Palestinian statehood

ISRAEL U.S. President Barack Obama nudged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday to accept the goal of a Palestinian state as he pressed Israel and the Palestinians to "step back from the abyss."

Deepening his role in reviving peace efforts, Obama met Jordan's King Ab-

dullah and set up talks with Netanyahu, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He seized the chance to reassure Abdullah of his commitment to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict despite reluctance by Netanyahu's new right-leaning govern-

ment to support eventual Palestinian statehood.

Obama reasserted his pledge to "deeply engage" in Arab-Israeli peace diplomacy — in contrast to a more hands-off approach by his predecessor George W. Bush — and predicted good-faith gestures from both sides in coming months. **REUTERS**

North Korea dismisses UN nuclear blacklist

PYONGYANG North Korea yesterday dismissed UN Security Council efforts to prepare a list of North Korean firms to be blacklisted after Pyongyang's rocket launch this month.

North Korea's deputy UN ambassador Pak Tok Hun said his country was ignoring a council statement that condemned the launch and demanded tougher enforcement of sanctions imposed after a nuclear test in 2006.

"We don't recognize that statement, because it runs against ... international laws," he said. "We have the rights, as I told you, the rights to make peaceful use of outer space." **REUTERS**

Clinton raises case of jailed Libyan dissident

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she raised the case of ailing Libyan political dissident Fathi al-Jahmi when she met Libya's national security adviser yesterday.

The U.S. has urged Libya to release Jahmi, a former provincial governor who has been held since 2002 on a series of charges, including trying to overthrow the government and insulting Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Jahmi, whose family says he is in deteriorating health, was first arrested in 2002 after he criticized Gadhafi and called for open elections, a free press and the release of political prisoners. **REUTERS**

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Small planet found

Scientists searching for a planet like Earth said yesterday they have found the smallest planet ever detected outside the solar system. **REUTERS**

world **11**

Racism decried

UN conference tries to recover from walkout

Delegates at a United Nations conference shunned by the United States adopted yesterday an anti-racism declaration as they sought to shake off the impact of a walkout triggered by remarks by Iran's president.

U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington condemned as "appalling and objectionable" comments by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Monday calling Israel a "totally racist government," remarks UN officials also called "unacceptable."

The text adopted on yesterday, which "reaffirms" a contentious 2001 document

that refers six times to Israel and the Middle East, was adopted by consensus and without debate at a public session, well before the end of the week-long meeting.

"This is very good news indeed," Navi Pillay, UN high commissioner for human rights, told a news conference.

On Monday, dozens of delegates left the forum as Ahmadinejad, who has previously raised doubts about the Holocaust — commemorated by Jews on Monday — said Israel had been founded "on the pretext of Jewish sufferings and the

abuse of the question of the Holocaust."

A text of his remarks circulated by Iran's Geneva mission had him referring to the "ambiguous and dubious question of the Holocaust," but Ahmadinejad did not use those words.

UN officials hope the early endorsement of the text, which was negotiated over months in preparatory talks in Geneva, will return the focus of the conference to issues such as links between poverty and discrimination and ways to prevent xenophobic attacks on foreign workers.

REUTERS

U.K. Cash to study bees



Beekeeper Peter Cash ties a honeycomb from one of his hives in Tutbury, central England, yesterday. Britain's government announced a 10-million pound (\$18-million) project to research the threats faced by bees and other insect pollinators.

UN hopes to avert new Iraqi conflict

REPORT The United Nations will hand to Iraq today a report on disputed territories, including Kirkuk, that it hopes will avert war between Kurds and the Arab-led government in Baghdad, western officials said.

The UN report on the future of Kirkuk, an oil-rich city which minority Kurds say is their ancestral capital, is the latest effort to end decades of conflict over an area that is home to a mix of Kurds, Turkmen and Arabs.

Ending tensions in the north is also seen as crucial to lasting peace in Iraq.

REUTERS

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Comment

Lose weight, save planet

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

Happy Earth Day. If you're looking for something useful to do today (other than picking up a free coffee), you might try checking if you can see your toes.

It turns out the world's population is getting fatter, and that adds to the already heavy load on the planet, greenhouse gas-wise.

No, the problem is not excessive flatulence, although I expect that doesn't help. The problem, according to British researchers from the London School of Hygiene

and Tropical Medicine, is the fatter we get, the more likely we are to use our cars to get around and the more fuel those cars have to burn to haul our sorry butts around.

There is no doubt the species is increasing in bulk. Between 1994 and 2004 in England, the average body mass index (BMI) increased from 26 to 27.3 for men and 25.8 to 26.9 for women. I regret to report that anyone with a BMI of more than 25 is considered overweight, and over 30 is obese. In Canada two-thirds of the population is

overweight and one-quarter is obese. South of the border, birthplace of the Big Mac, 40 per cent are obese.

The British researchers estimate one billion lean people will emit one billion fewer tonnes of carbon dioxide a year than one billion fat people.

So how's that for an incentive? Lose weight; save the planet.

I confess I've already been inadvertently saving the planet. I

started losing weight this January when I realized there was no way I was going to run the

Vancouver Marathon in time to qualify for the Boston Marathon, the Holy Grail of marathons, if I continued to weigh in at a porky 205 pounds. So now I weigh 179, with a

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

Go Green



BMI of 24.3. Mother Earth has yet to send me a thank-you card even though I check the mail every day, but I guess she's pretty busy shouldering the increased load.

OK, maybe she won't notice the reduction, but you've got to start somewhere. I have to admit I haven't felt this, uh, bounce in years. It may not be enough to beat four hours in the marathon on May 3, which is what I need to do to qualify for Boston, but lumbering around the streets of Vancouver for 26 miles at 205 pounds is no fun. For so many reasons, light is right.

So Canada, I dare you. Take the challenge: Look down. No toes? Then it's time to get off the couch, get out of the car, and put one foot in front of the other. Take a load off Mother Earth ... and yourself.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

HAPPY EARTH DAY!



MICHAEL DE ADRIE

Worth mentioning

Plug-in cars clean, but face many hurdles

Although the U.S. is pushing the use of plug-in hybrids, cost and infrastructure hurdles could keep them out of the mainstream for years.

The cars, which sip gasoline and are low in greenhouse gas emissions, have large batteries which can be recharged at home with an extension cord.

The big batteries allow plug-ins to depend more on electricity, the use of which emits less carbon dioxide per unit of energy than petroleum products do, even if the power comes from coal, said Dan Santini, an expert at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory.

The federal government is pushing development of plug-ins. U.S. President Barack Obama has set a goal for the U.S. to put one million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015. Obama's stimulus plan had \$2 billion for development of batteries. Unfortunately, bigger

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

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batteries are expensive, take four to eight hours to recharge and have limited range, so many owners will want to charge them at home and at work. That means a network of charging stations would have to be built for the cars to catch on.

The good news is the U.S. should have plenty of electricity capacity. Mike Waters, an efficiency expert at Progress Energy said a "smart grid," that can send information from power plants to customers, could soon send pricing signals to plug-in owners to encourage them to stop charging when peak power demand nears.

And though the hurdles are high, some companies could clear them as more cars are built. "The point is to get (them) on the road so we can see where the problems are and move from there," Pritchard said.

REUTERS

Word on the street: In celebration of Earth Day, what's the biggest lifestyle change you've made to help the environment?

Samantha Stricker

age 25,
Vancouver

A: The biggest change I made was selling my car. I use transit, my roller-blades or I'll walk.

Vaughn Jones

age 22,
Vancouver

A: I reuse all of my yogurt containers for leftovers. I also reuse my grocery bags.

Amanda Ash

age 23,
Vancouver

A: I immediately (changed) the light bulbs in my apartment with the energy-efficient ones.

Adam Travis

age 25, Toronto

A: We upgraded to a high-efficiency furnace and air conditioner.

Rob Greenough

Halifax

A: I'm separating my trash further, plastics from organics and using the organics in our gardening.

Ambrosia MacDonald

age 32,
Edmonton

A: We recycle everything. We only throw away one bag of trash every two weeks.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number - street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Projects to keep you busy all year

Earth Day Canada has several year-round programs for Canadians of all ages. Programs include EcoKids, ecoMentors, EcoAction Teams and Toyota Earth Day Scholarship. For more, see earthday.ca. **EARTH DAY CANADA**

earth day: april 22 **13**

Go Green

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONews.CA

Message from Metro CEO Per Mikael Jensen



To our readers,

We are the world's largest newspaper and whatever we do can impact — every week — 37 million people on four continents.

There are things that only the world's global newspaper can do. Go Green is a great example and Metro is proud to embrace such a huge cause.

And what is Metro doing to Go Green?

The philosophy behind the Metro business plan lends itself to be more green than its paid-for

colleagues. Our aim is to reach as many readers as possible with the minimum amount of copies — as opposed to that of a paid-for newspaper, where the number of copies is the key, not readers.

We print our editions on recycled paper when we can — all of our southern European editions are printed on 100 per cent recycled paper — and when we can't, we buy paper from special farms that use less water to grow their trees. We are the news in brief. It takes

us fewer pages to bring you all the news you need to read. We turn down the AC and the heat; we put our lights on special timers so they shut off when they can't detect motion.

Additionally, we've begun to explore cycling distribution and test pilot programs to increase our reach without printing more copies.

In addition to our internal and corporate efforts to be greener, as a mass media outlet, Metro can use its powerful reach to pull together our readers'

will to be green into real action by providing resources, information and communities that encourage a greener world. And our readers are ready to Go Green from across Canada, to Santiago, to New York, to Prague; Metro will be the booster.

Today's special edition is the first step.

Join us. Go Green with Metro and feel free to join the Facebook group of the same name.

KIND REGARDS,
PER MIKAEL JENSEN
CEO, METRO INTERNATIONAL

Vin-ners and losers

The changing face of wine regions

USA and Canada:

California may become too hot and too dry to produce quality wine. The same goes for Yakima Valley in Washington. The East Coast looks as if it could benefit. The same goes for British Columbia and it's Okanagan Valley.

South Americas:

Both Chile and Argentina are considered winners. The cooler sea currents in the southern hemisphere will be to their advantage, and wine growers such as the well-known Miguel Torres from Spain are buying land here.

Africa:

South Africa looks as if it will suffer less from global warming than most places. However, wine growers are looking to move to the mountains.

Australia, New Zealand:

Many districts are becoming too hot and too dry. Some of the wine growers are moving to mountainous Tasmania where the climate is cooler. In New Zealand, Central Otago on the South Island could become the world's possibly southernmost wine district.

Europe:

The warmest places are in trouble. Spain and Portugal are predicted to be those most likely to suffer. Major wine growers such as Miguel Torres in Spain are moving into the Pyrenees. In districts already affected, growers contemplate exchanging the Tempranillo with other grapes more suited to warmer climates. Italy, too, is suffering, especially

places in the south like Sicily. Some local experts advocate irrigation, which is now banned, to save vineyards in Tuscany for instance. In France, it looks as if the west and the south will be affected the most. Growers are moving into higher regions, when possible, or buying land in other countries. For instance, winemakers from the famous Champagne District in France are moving across the English Channel, buying into the chalky regions of southern England. The British Isles are basking in the sun, winemakers are multiplying, the same goes for the amount of land taken up by vineyards. Southern England could be the Champagne District of the future, some experts predict.

Other countries:

Denmark, Sweden, Finland and other countries around the Baltic Sea have so far only had amateur enthusiasts involved in wine-making. But now it is becoming commercial, with some of the wines actually exported to buyers in other countries. However, these countries will possibly still be too cool for large productions, rather they will produce interesting quality wine in small amounts.

Asia:

As surprising as it may seem, China is already the seventh largest wine producing country in the world. And some experts have their eyes on an area northwest of Beijing as one of the most promising — wines from here are already winning prizes at international fairs. So get used to names like Changyu, Dragon Seal, Great Wall or Dynasty.

SOURCES:
ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR
AND
CLIMATOLOGIST
GREGORY JONES



How nature can inspire design

Nature has always inspired mankind. Leonardo Da Vinci and the Wright brothers looked at birds in flight to inspire their flying devices.

In the same way, Swiss inventor George de Mestral created Velcro in 1948 by analyzing the burrs stuck to his pants and to his dog's fur after a walk in the countryside.

Today, this science has a name: Biomimicry, a word coined by American researcher Janine Benyus, who published, Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature in 1997.

"Biomimicry, or biomimetics, is all about look-

"The natural world is full of hints on how to manufacture in life-friendly ways."

Researcher Janine Benyus

ing to nature for inspiration and borrowing nature's blueprints, its chemical recipes and ecosystem strategies," says Benyus.

"Why reinvent the wheel when we have optimal solutions in nature that have benefited from 3.8 billion years of field testing and natural selection?"

This idea actually appeals more and more to companies that are trying to find solutions to prob-

lems nature has been dealing with since the dawn of life, such as minimizing energy use and manufacturing without toxins.

"The natural world is full of hints on how to manufacture in life-friendly ways," says Benyus.

Nature is full of examples of adaptation, so "when we now talk about the extinction spasm, we're talking about losing wisdom, ideas that we

would not normally have thought of," says Benyus.

We can no longer take this wealth for granted. That's why the Biomimicry Institute has initiated a program called Innovation Through Conservation, asking companies to donate a percentage of their proceeds to conserve the habitat of the species they took inspiration from.

Biomimicry proves once more that the loss of biodiversity is a lot more than an animal lover issue.

NADIA LODDO
METRO WORLD NEWS
IN PARIS

Go Green

Every week, 37 million people in 20 countries read Metro

Imagine if all of those readers — if all of us — banded together to change the world? What a difference 37 million makes ...

Running through the drops



When 37 million people take a five-minute shower, it only uses 3.5 trillion litres of water, compared to a 10-minute shower, which uses seven trillion litres of water.

It's exhaust-ing

When 37 million people use average sedan cars, it emits 2.59 trillion tonnes of CO₂ during the lifetime of their cars, as compared with 3.7 trillion tonnes of CO₂ if they used SUVs.

Drive me wild

When 37 million drivers leave their cars at home and commute together with their spouses/partners/neighbours, they cause the emission of 107 million tonnes of CO₂ annually, compared with 214 million tonnes of CO₂ should they decide to use their own cars.

Dot-bomb

When 37 million people do not switch off their computers after work, they use 37 million megawatt hours of electricity annually, compared to around 9.2 million megawatt hours if computers and monitors are switched off after work.

Pass it on!

When 37 million people share their newspaper (approximately 0.3 kg of paper), they save 85,248 trees

Guess who's coming to dinner?

When 37 million people use modern dishwashers with the best rating once a day, they would use 666 million litres of water, compared with 1.5 trillion litres of water used by less efficient dishwashers.

Flushed away

When 37 million people refurbish their bathrooms with low-flush toilets (six litres per flush), each flush uses 222 million litres of water, compared to old toilets (12 litres per flush), that would take 444 million litres of water to flush collectively.

Watt's up, doc?

When 37 million people change just one 100-watt incandescent bulb for a 20-watt compact fluorescent light bulb, giving the same amount of light, during one hour they would be using 740 megawatt hours of energy to receive the same lighting, compared with 3,700 megawatt hours with the regular bulb.

TV stars

When 37 million people unplug their TV sets (1 watt standby) while going to sleep, they would save 296,000 kwh per day.

DANIEL DENISHUK
METRO WORLD NEWS
IN POLAND



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the scientific body created by the United Nations to evaluate the risk of climate change, has shown how strong an influence scientists all over the world can have on politicians and public opinion when they speak with one voice. This was proven once again in

Bio bias

World moves toward an IPCC in biodiversity

January 2005 at an international meeting in Paris by the then-French president Jacques Chirac. Over the past four years, the idea has progressed, and the creation of what will be called the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is now only a question of time. "The IPBES should work more or less like the IPCC," says Didier Babin, the researcher who led negotiations until the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) officially took over the project in February.

Just as the IPCC (which is composed of more than 2,000 scientists worldwide), the IPBES will not carry out research, but will be tasked to publish special reports that gather state-of-the-art studies conducted by recognized scientists around the

world. Its main objective is to bring about common indicators that will have an international scope and work as a bridge between the distant worlds of science and politics to make action ... and fast.

"IPCC and IPBES will probably also work together," says Babin, as there are structural links between biodiversity and climate change.

"Think about the rain forests that are immense carbon reservoirs and at the same time among the globe's major biodiversity hot spots."

IPBES will certainly have a lot to do in the next few years. A lot of hope is laid in this new panel that should be officially opened in 2010, during what the UN has already labelled the "year of biodiversity."

NADIA LODDO
METRO WORLD NEWS
IN PARIS

Greetings, Earthlings

Founder of Earth Day comes clean on being green

Denis Hayes is the man who made Earth Day a world phenomenon. When Earth Day was launched in 1970, Hayes was its first co-ordinator and turned the environmental day into a series of events attended by 20 million Americans. Twenty years later, Hayes launched the first International Earth Day. Result:

200 million participants in 141 countries. Today, he heads Earth Day Network, which co-ordinates Earth Day activities around the world.

Can the world become greener through a one-day event? Of course not! We have no illusions about that. What we were doing in 1970 was to get people from very different quarters to act together on problems like lead paint and highway construction. Today, too, people have to recognize that environmental problems don't stop at borders. We should start thinking of ourselves as one species.

"In 1970, most people didn't even think about the environment."

cleaner. We've cleaned up rivers and lakes and saved endangered species. But the world is in poorer shape than it was in 1970, in almost every aspect.

What is Earth Day's biggest accomplishment?

1970 to '74 was the golden era. We passed the environmental laws on which society still operates. Since then its biggest accomplishment has been getting millions of school children involved. Environmentalism has become a part of society. In 1970, most people didn't even think about the environment. Now, it's part of everyone's vocabulary.

What will the next environmental crisis be? The growing acidification of the world's oceans. It has devastating effects on



the smallest organisms, which will have tragic consequences on the whole food chain, including humans.

What is the most immediate environmental danger today? Carbon emissions.

What is the most important thing people can do to help the environment? Have no more than one child, or two at most. Live in an energy-efficient house. Walk and ride your bike.

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS
IN SAN FRANCISCO



Denis Hayes speaking at the first Earth Day event in 1970.

Washing in cold water can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Use cold water to wash your clothes. If every household in Canada did this, it would reduce approximately 1.5 billion kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions each year. **EARTH DAY CANADA**

earth day: april 22 **15**

Canaries in global coal mine

Their are numerous warning signs that global warming is affecting the Earth as we know it.

Here are some examples:

Adélie penguins

Global warming is affecting the Adélie penguin colonies in the Antarctic peninsula. Over the last 50

years, winter temperatures have risen by about 5 C in the peninsula, reducing the amount of pack ice. Pack ice directly affects the availability of algae available for krill, the main staple of the penguin's diet. Without pack ice, there is no algae and no food for krills — a direct repercussion on the penguin's diet. In the last decade, the population of Adélie penguins has declined by almost 50 per cent.

SOURCE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Bees

Scientist Albert Einstein famously said: "If the bee disappears from the surface of the Earth, man would have no more than four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination ... no more men!"

Excessive pesticide use in North America has led to a decline of up to 50 per cent of managed colonies of honeybees.

Crops such as apples, pears and berries depend entirely on pollinators for fruit production.

SOURCE: BUMBLEBEE.ORG

Coral reefs

Coral reefs provide goods and services worth about \$375 billion each year — yet the coral ecosystem covers less than one per cent of the Earth's surface.

In fishing, both the food and marine ornamental trade are often caught using cyanide, which stuns fish for easy capture. Cyanide kills the coral and many other coral reef organisms such as coral polyps. Less than half the fish caught with cyanide survive long enough to then be sold to restaurants or aquariums.

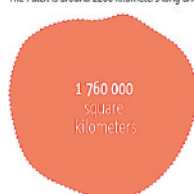
SOURCE: PEOPLEANDPLANET.NET
ROMINA MCGUINNESS
METRO WORLD NEWS
IN LONDON

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

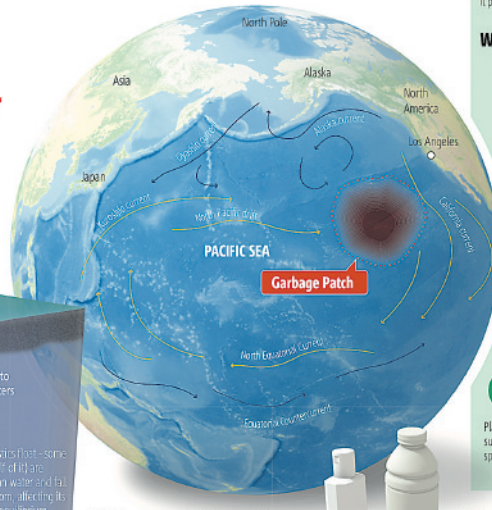
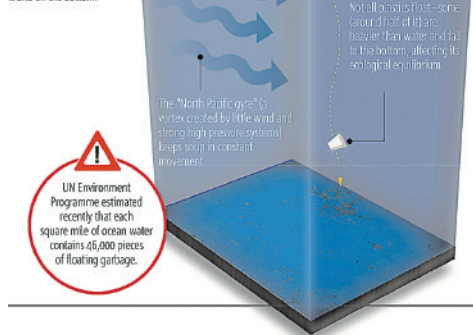
Is an area of marine debris, laying approximately 135° to 155° West and 35° to 42° North. Although it shifts every year and exact position is hard to tell. It lies within North Pacific Gyre and does not go anywhere, as it is confined by its currents.

The area

The Patch is around 2200 kilometers long and 800 kilometers wide

**Plastic Soup**

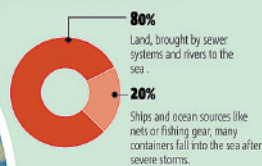
Consists of both larger and disintegrated plastic objects and particles, both on the surface, in the water column below it and on the bottom.

**Problems created by plastic:**

- It fouls beaches worldwide and scares tourists away.
- Plastic entangles marine animals and drowns them, strangles them and makes them immovable.
- Plastic litter washed ashore destroys habitats of coastal species.
- Plastic litter gets inside ships propellers and keels, making ship maintenance more expensive.
- Plastic does not biodegrade, plastic things make an ideal vessel and enable invasive species to move to further regions.

How does it form?

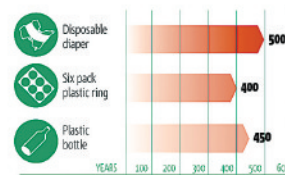
Currents in the Pacific Ocean create a circular effect that pulls debris from North America, Asia and the Hawaiian Islands. Then it pushes it into a floating pile of 100 million tons of trash.

Where does it all come from?**Interesting facts**

Less than 5% of plastic is recycled. In the Central North Pacific Gyre, small pieces of plastic outweighed surface zooplankton by a factor of 6 to 1 in 1999. But the ratio in 2010 may already be 60 to 1.

Photodegradation

Plastic never biodegrades, it doesn't break down into natural substances. But it goes through a photodegradation process, splits into ever smaller and smaller parts, which are still plastic.

How long does it take to photodegrade plastic:

www.illgraphics.com

More plastic than plankton

Our oceans are covered in patches of garbage as big as a continent

At the heart of the oceans, areas as big as France, maybe more, are covered in garbage.

The most famous of these is the Great Garbage Patch, discovered in the late 1990s in the North Pacific Ocean between the United States and Asia. But it seems that another seven similar patches may exist, according to Seattle oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer, one of the first scientists to take interest in the strange routes of plastic trash in the sea.

In his new book, *Flotsametrics and the Floating World: How One Man's Obsession with Runaway Sneakers and Rubber Ducks Revolutionized Ocean Science*, Ebbesmeyer

"From a boat, you start seeing everyday objects like toothbrushes and plastic bags on the outskirts of the vortex."

François Chartier, oceans campaign director at Greenpeace France

explains his "science of floating objects," or "flotsametrics."

By observing trash on beaches, such as Nikes or rubber ducks, he identified several circular currents, or gyres, which, like whirlpools, bring together all the plastic and other solid garbage that ends up in the seas around the world.

Ebbesmeyer says the patches of debris may cover a surface "equivalent to several times the United States."

However, the garbage

patches are still unrecognized and neglected because they are basically difficult to see.

"From a boat, you start seeing everyday objects like toothbrushes and plastic bags on the outskirts of the vortex," explains François Chartier, director of the oceans campaign at Greenpeace France, the organization that revealed the existence of the Great Garbage Patch to the media.

"When you approach the centre of the patch, the trash is thicker and

some birds have actually started nesting on it."

But from the sky, even from satellites, there is "nothing to be seen," says Ebbesmeyer. "It's like tracking a ghost!"

Invisible plastic? Not really. The fact is that most of the pieces are quite see-through, like plastic bags. Others are fractions of bigger pieces of plastic that have disintegrated into bits as small as plankton.

"In the middle of the patch, there is six times more plastic than plank-

ton," Ebbesmeyer says.

This accumulation of plastic in the oceans is a serious menace for the environment and for human health.

"Dolphins suffocate on plastic bags, birds can die of hunger because their stomach is so full of undigested plastic that they can no longer eat," says Chartier.

But plastic also contains toxins (PCBs, heavy metals) that are harmful to humans and that are assimilated by plankton and other fish, which end up in the ocean's food chain, and, consequently, in your seafood chowder.

NADIA LODDO
METRO WORLD NEWS
IN PARIS

Go Green

Look after the planet — and look after yourself



Martin Atkin
WWF
International



Most of us see trees, gardens, maybe even some fields or a river during our daily commute. Even in the busiest city, we can enjoy some contact with nature. Whether we live in a great rain forest or an urban apartment, our livelihoods — and our lives — depend on keeping the planet's biodiversity in good shape.

The truth is, we've spent our natural capital like there's no tomorrow and now we're faced with the bill. Just as irresponsible borrowing and spending got us into the present economic recession, so we've been piling up ecological debt by consuming and wasting more and more natural resources. If you think the economy is in bad shape, take a look at the planet.

WWF's Living Planet Report tells us that three-quarters of us live in countries that are ecological debtors — using up resources faster than nature can replace them. If we carry on consuming at our current rate, by 2030 we'll need the equivalent of two planets to maintain our lifestyles. Over the past 35 years alone, we have squandered nearly one-third of the Earth's biodiversity. Not only is this hugely damaging for the environment, but it doesn't make any economic sense. One recent report estimates that forest ecosystems alone are worth around \$28 billion a year — and a lot of that money is literally going up in smoke.

“The truth is, we've spent our natural capital like there's no tomorrow and now we're faced with the bill.”

As we increasingly worry about jobs and mortgages, we may be tempted to ignore the bigger picture. But Amazon deforestation, hungry polar bears and over-fished tuna are a challenge for all of us, because protecting natural resources means better food and water security, better human health and a better chance of fighting climate change.

The good news is — we know what needs to be done and we can afford it. We have a unique opportunity to use the trillions of dollars in stimulus packages to create a green global economy that could lift us out of recession, protect natural resources and tackle global warming. The first step is to agree to a fair, fast and effective global deal on climate change in Copenhagen this December. Then, in 2010 — the International Year of Biodiversity — the UN must lead the rest of the world in taking bold steps to reduce consumption and stop biodiversity loss within 10 years.

Earth Day is a good time to think about our shared responsibility to consume and sustain the planet's natural resources wisely — after all, it's in our own interest.

Small creatures do great things

Worms provide vital services to mankind such as working land ... and fighting against global warming

What would we do without worms?

“When we talk about biodiversity, we never really mention worms,” says Denis Loyer, deputy director of the French Development Agency (AFD). “But they actually have an essential role in producing food.”

Without worms, there would be no fertile lands. Worms are actually one single long digestive tube. Feeding on organic waste, they end up excreting a powerful natural fertilizer. That's how compost heaps work!

If pesticides can be harmful to these hard-working animals, it is surprising to discover that what is really bad for them is working the land. Worms are killed by birds and by the lack of food, while UVs finish the job by destroying all other microscopic life in the soil.

“The difference is enormous: Where land is laboured, you can find up to 50 kilograms of worms per hectare against two to four tonnes on non-laboured agricultural exploitations,” says Loyer. Today, many soils are biologically dead, with no more than one per cent of organic substance.

Darwin & worms

British naturalist Charles Darwin should be remembered for more than his theory on the evolution of the species. The last book he published in 1881 shows how, by many means, he was ahead of his time. With *The Formation of Vegetable Mold Through the Action of Worms*, he opened the doors of science to a seemingly insignificant species: The worm. He had friends and scientists send him samples of worm waste to analyze the benefits of this organic fertilizer. He took his job very seriously and also studied their behaviour — he even played the piano to them to test their hearing. Worms are actually deaf.

“When we talk about biodiversity, we never really mention worms.”

Denis Loyer

Chemical fertilizers feed plants but do not rebuild the natural capital of soils. Moreover, worms dig tunnels in the land that allow water to penetrate deeply instead of washing away wastefully — or worse, causing floods. This is why a non-laboured agriculture is being hailed as the future solution to feeding the world.

“A project we have in Tunisia shows that the farms are just as efficient, but have reduced costs thanks to less labour and less chemicals. Moreover, in dry countries, stocking water in the soil is very important,” adds Loyer. “This kind of agriculture is growing by 15 per cent per year.”

That's good news, and not only for worms. As a matter of fact, some climate change experts believe these shy creatures will also be on the front line tackling climate change.

One worm may be like David against the climate Goliath, but spread them around the world, and you get a result that may equal the benefit of stopping de-



forestation. How?

“Organic substance is basically carbon, so like trees stock carbon as they grow, increasing the quantity of organic substance in soils will develop their capacity to sequester carbon,”

says Loyer.

And we all know there's no one that can do that better than worms.

NADIA LODDO
METRO WORLD NEWS
IN PARIS

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

metronews.ca

metro

Hilton gets subpoena over Starwood spying claims

Hilton Hotels Corp. said yesterday it received a federal grand jury subpoena for documents related to allegations that the company stole documents from rival Starwood Hotels & Resorts to develop Hilton's luxury Denizen Hotels. **REUTERS**

17

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Interest rate cut to 0.25%

The Bank of Canada took markets by surprise by cutting its benchmark interest rate to a historic low of 0.25 per cent yesterday and saying it was prepared to keep them there for another full year in an aggressive bid to spur a slumping economy.

The central bank, in an unusual move, told markets directly to expect rates to stay at the current level until the end of the second quarter of 2010, assuming inflation remains tame.

It also cut its economic growth forecasts to reflect its view that the Canadian recession will be deeper than it had previously predicted. It now sees recovery starting in the fourth quarter of this year and not the third quarter, as it predicted in January.

Nonetheless, it suggest-

"I think that they are trying to engineer confidence in Canadian households and businesses that interest rates are going to stay low for the foreseeable future."

Aron Gampel, Scotiabank

ed that the cumulative rate cuts it has made since December 2007 may be sufficient to help turn the economy around, and that it may not have to print money to buy securities in the market, a policy known as quantitative easing.

It will, however, set out a

framework tomorrow for that kind of unconventional-

"It reflects the concern the central bank may have

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al policy.

A majority of primary securities dealers had expected rates to hold steady.

"Committing to keeping (rates) there for the next year is quite a startling revelation," said Aron Gampel, deputy chief economist at Scotiabank.

for the global economy. More importantly, I think that they are trying to engineer confidence in Canadian households and businesses that interest rates are going to stay low for the foreseeable future," Gampel said.

REUTERS

Track sale boosts CN Rail

PROFIT A gain from a track sale and other items helped Canadian National Railway Co. post a higher quarterly profit on Monday, offsetting the impact of the weak economy.

The railway remains leery of predicting when the economy will rebound, but said operational changes adopted in recent years were reflected in lower expenses in the quarter and will help even more when freight traffic

rebounds.

The railway said it had a net profit of \$424 million, or 90 cents a share in the first quarter. That compared with \$311 million, or 64 cents a share, in the same quarter a year earlier.

The profit would have been \$302 million without one-time items such as a \$157-million gain from selling a rail corridor to the Toronto area's transit operator and a tax recovery, CN said.

REUTERS

Business in brief

ECONOMY The economic crisis may be at its worst now and a recovery could follow unless downside risks materialize, euro zone countries are likely to tell a Group of Seven meeting on Friday, a G7 source said.

OPEC Oil prices climbed into positive territory yesterday, tracking gains on Wall Street

as OPEC-member Iran said the cartel may need to restrict supplies further to thin down brimming global stockpiles.

CHINA Wal-Mart Inc.'s plan to eliminate jobs at its China unit has met with resistance from the up to 1,400 workers involved, the U.S. retailer said yesterday.

REUTERS



Artist's rendering

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INFORMATION FEATURE

Nature, Disney-Style

Disneynature revives tradition of documentary excellence

By Lori Dance

Seeking to capitalize on the recent success of nature documentaries, Disney looked back at its own long-dormant True-Life Adventures division—which not only garnered eight Academy Awards from 1948 to 1960, but also fostered fond memories for generations of schoolchildren—to inspire the first Disney-branded film label in over 60 years.

"Nature invents the most beautiful stories," says Jean-François Camilleri who, besides having been involved with the Academy Award-winning film *March of the Penguins*, is executive vice president and general manager of Disneynature. "So in a place like the Disney Studios, where storytelling is key, we are going to go and... bring them to the big screen. This was a vision of Walt Disney back in 1948, and this is the vision of Disneynature today."



Director
Alastair Fothergill

For its first film, **EARTH**, the Disneynature team looked no further than directors Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield, the creative team behind the Emmy Award-winning *Planet Earth* series, for assistance. "I think **EARTH** is a perfect film to start the Disneynature series... because it is a portrait of the whole planet," Fothergill asserts. "In over five years, we filmed at over 200 locations in 64 countries worldwide and

employed 60 cameramen... Nobody in the history of cinema has ever had so much time, resources, and talent brought together for one true-life feature."

"Nature invents the most beautiful stories"

Disneynature is developing numerous titles concurrently and plans to release at least one feature-length documentary each year. *Oceans*, slated for 2010, will rely on new technology to capture detailed underwater drama where few have previously ventured. *Big Cats*, to be released in 2011, follows three species as they protect and teach their cubs on the great plains of Africa. And the directors of **EARTH** will reunite for 2012's *Chimpanzee*, shot over three years in the tropical jungles of the Ivory Coast and Uganda.

To find out more about the Disneynature brand or to download educational materials, visit disneynature.com



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

~ Native American Proverb

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Teri Hart, THE MOVIE NET

Disneynature
earth

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JAMES EARL RAY
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BBC NATURAL HISTORY UNIT FILM CINEMATOGRAPHY
ANDREW WILSON KATE HOPKINS AND TIM OWENS PRODUCTION
PERFORMED BY THE BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER WRITTEN BY LESLIE MEGAHEY ALASTAIR FOTHERGILL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIKE PHILLIPS ANDRE SIKOJEV STEFAN BEITEN WAYNE GARVE MARTY
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NDA HUTCHINSON MANDY KNIGHT MUSIC COMPOSED BY GEORGE FENTON
GILL MARK UNFIELD ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS MELISSA CARON AMANDA HILL MICHAEL HEINRICH
N FREEMAN AND NIKOLAUS WEIL PRODUCERS ALIX TIDMARSH AND SOPHOKLES TASIOLIS
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INFORMATION FEATURE

Three Families, One EARTH

Disneynature's first film explores the animal kingdom from pole to pole

By Lori Dance

On April 22, Disney will celebrate Earth Day with the premiere of the first film in its Disneynature series. Narrated in thrilling detail by James Earl Jones, **EARTH** follows the journeys of three animal families as they interact with the ever-changing world around them.

On a group of Nordic islands is where you'll meet the polar bears. The world's largest land predators travel hundreds of miles for something to eat, yet they don't drink water. A male ventures far to hunt as a mother emerges from a snow den with her two cubs. The pack ice melts earlier each year, and food is becoming a challenge. To visit the next family, you'll travel far south as an elephant mother guides her tiny calf across the Kalahari Desert in search of fresh water, of which an adult can drink 50 gallons each day. In this dry season, however, thick clouds of dust threaten to separate them, and they are forced to share what little refreshment they find with hungry lions.

Finally, you'll witness an epic 4,000-mile migration. In tropical waters, a humpbacked whale calf receives over 600 quarts of milk each day, but its mother is starving. The pair set out on the longest journey undertaken by any marine mammal to the southernmost Antarctic waters to feed on krill and small fish before they turn around and journey back to the Equator.

The supporting cast of this story includes, among over 40 other animal species, some painfully adorable mandarin ducklings who, at their mother's urging, fling themselves 30 feet from their nest to the ground. Will they fly? Will they bounce? You'll just have to wait until Earth Day to find out...

To check out more exclusive and super-cute behind-the-scenes footage of the film's three main families, visit disneynature.com/earth.

Trees for Tickets

Plant yourself in front of EARTH, and Disneynature will plant a tree on Earth

By Lori Dance

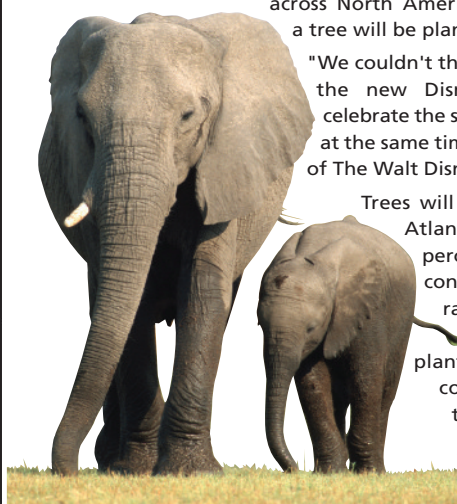
Disney and Metro have a convenient truth for you: for every ticket purchased during the opening week of **EARTH**, being released across North America on Earth Day (April 22), a tree will be planted in your honour.

"We couldn't think of a better way to launch the new Disneynature banner, and to celebrate the spirit of the film and Earth Day at the same time," says Dick Cook, chairman of The Walt Disney Studios.

Trees will be planted in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest which, at only 7 percent of its original capacity, is considered the most endangered rain forest in the world.

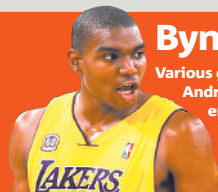
Disney is overseeing their planting and care, and Metro is contributing advertising space to support the program.

For more information, including ticket availability at your local theatre, visit disney.com/earth.



Hasek back with Czech team
Dominik Hasek is coming out of retirement to play for his former club in the top Czech league. The 44-year-old goaltender will play next season for HC Moeller Pardubice in the town where he was born and started his career. Hasek will be the oldest player in the league. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Bynum under Rihanna's umbrella?

Various gossip sites and bloggers are reporting that Los Angeles Lakers centre Andrew Bynum is currently dating singer Rihanna. "The couple dined in Beverly Hills. When they left together, a witness reports that they looked 'very couple-y, sitting real close to each other in the car,'" said a report on the Big Lead.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina 4 New Jersey 3
Detroit 4 Columbus 1
Pittsburgh 3 Philadelphia 1
Vancouver 3 St. Louis 2 (OT)
San Jose 4 Anaheim 3

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Boston at Montreal
Washington at N.Y. Rangers
Chicago at Calgary

NBA

PLAYOFFS YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 94 Detroit 82
Portland 107 Houston 103
Utah at L.A. Lakers

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Philadelphia at Orlando
Miami at Atlanta
New Orleans at Denver

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Texas 5 Toronto 4
N.Y. Yankees 5 Oakland 3
Pittsburgh 3 Florida 2
Cleveland 8 Kansas City 7
Houston 8 L.A. Dodgers 5
Philadelphia 11 Milwaukee 4
St. Louis 6 N.Y. Mets 4
Washington 4 Atlanta 3
Chicago White Sox at Baltimore
Minnesota at Boston
Detroit at L.A. Angels
Tampa Bay at Seattle
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs
Colorado at Arizona
San Diego at San Francisco

Canucks win in OT for sweep

STANLEY CUP
2009 Playoffs
(CANUCKS WIN SERIES 4-0)

Canucks 3 Blues 2 (OT)



SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

THE SKINNY: Alex Burrows played playoff hero when he scored his second goal of the game at 19:41 of the first overtime as the Canucks swept the Blues in four straight games. Roberto Luongo made 47 saves in the victory, including 28 saves in the third period and overtime to propel the Canucks into

the second round.

THE STORM: Vancouver killed off six minutes of penalties in overtime prior to Burrows' winner. The Blues went 0-7 with the man advantage on the night and finished the series 1-24 on the power play.

THE DEBUT: With Sami Salo on the shelf with a lower body injury, Ossi Vannan made his first playoff appearance in Canucks colours. He finished the night with 8:17 of ice time, two blocked shots and a plus-1 rating.

THE HISTORY: The Canucks swept a best-of-seven series for the first time in the 38 year existence of the franchise. The Canucks did sweep the Flames in a best-of-five series en route to their



Vancouver Canuck Alex Burrows takes a shot against St. Louis Blues goalie Chris Mason last night in St. Louis, Mo. The Canucks beat the Blues 3-2 in overtime.

run to the Cup final in 1982.

THE RATING: Winning a series in overtime with a 47-save performance from the best

player on the ice? Sounds like 5 out of 5 stars to me.

THE NEXT GAME: Who knows? The Canucks are the

first team to advance to the second round and will now wait to how the rest of the Western Conference playoff picture shapes up.

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TRANS LINK

Pens put Flyers on the brink

STANLEY CUP
2009 Playoffs

Marc-Andre Fleury had an outstanding game with 45 saves as the Pittsburgh Penguins took a 3-1 win over the Philadelphia Flyers in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference quarter-finals at Wachovia Center. Sidney Crosby, Tyler Kennedy and Maxime Talbot each had a goal for the Penguins, who now hold a 3-1 lead in this best-of-seven series.

"I think our whole team responded tonight," said Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma. "They threw a lot at us. They threw the kitchen sink at us. They had a lot of power plays tonight and pucks to the net and he (Fleury) was good on the first puck, he was good on the second one and he was good in the crease."

Daniel Carcillo had the lone goal while Martin Biron was charged with two goals on 25 shots in the loss for the Flyers, who went 0-for-8 on the power play in the game.

"We created a lot of good opportunities on the power play, but just couldn't get it in," said Philadelphia coach John Stevens. "Tonight was one of those nights we had a tough time scoring."



Sidney Crosby celebrates his second period goal last night.

Pittsburgh has its first chance to win the series tomorrow as Game 5 will be in Pittsburgh.

Red Wings 4 Blue Jackets 1

Chris Osgood was terrific between the pipes again, making 31 saves, and Henrik Zetterberg scored twice as Detroit defeated the Blue Jackets 4-1 to grab a commanding lead in their Western Conference quarter-final series. Dan Cleary registered a goal and two assists and Tomas Holmstrom also tallied for the Red Wings, who have won the first three games and will look to complete the sweep tomorrow in Columbus.

Hurricanes 4 Devils 3

Jussi Jokinen tipped in Dennis Seidenberg's point shot at the third-period buzzer to lift Carolina over New Jersey 4-3 and tie their Eastern Conference series at two games apiece.

With the game tied at three in the final minute of regulation, Joni Pitkanen had the puck near the blue line and sent a pass to the right point.

Seidenberg blasted a shot with only seconds on the clock, and Jokinen, providing a screen on Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur, redirected it into the net as the buzzer sounded.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tillman enters not-guilty plea

The general manager of the Saskatchewan Roughriders has pleaded not guilty to a charge of sexual assault. Eric Tillman was not at the provincial courthouse in Regina yesterday, but his lawyer, Aaron Fox, entered the plea on his behalf. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

From blocking back to environmentalist

STEPHEN JOHNSON
for Metro Canada



Julian Radlein is not a typical environmental activist. He is a six-foot-two, 245 pound former fullback with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats who was adept at crushing opposing linebackers. But he's also one of Canada's leading advocates for environmental awareness.

Radlein enjoyed a five year career with Hamilton from 2003 to 2007. During this time, he was active in the Hamilton environmental community. His involvement ranged from encouraging people to eat locally to performing an environmental audit at Ivor Wynne stadium. Radlein credits his interest in the environment to early exposure.

"My dad was a chemist so I grew up with science and a respect for the environment. I studied ecology at UBC. I like to think of myself not as an environmental activist but more as a survivalist. Clean air, water and soil are essential to sustaining life."

After retiring from the CFL last year, Radlein formed Evergreen Sports Programming with former Saskatchewan Roughriders Dustin Cherniawski.

The company focuses on delivering an environmental message by using football players as their spokespersons. The key-stone activity of their company is the GreenZone Sustainability Blitz — Speaker Series.

"We focus on three pillars of sustainability: reduce, reuse and recycle," said

Radlein. Lions linebacker Javier Glatt spent his off-season presenting the Sustainability Blitz program to schools across B.C. Glatt feels the high-energy activities of the program help to make it popular with children of different ages.

"We always start with a



pep rally where the whole school comes together. There are environmental games that have students

competing against the athletes. We have a water relay, energy challenge and waste relay. It is funny how the students always seem to win." Glatt tries to deliver his message in a language the students understand. "When I speak to schools in Vancouver, I always ask the

students to imagine if they could not see the mountains due to smog. Also, I talk about the importance of clean air and fresh grass for things like recess. When you start talking about recess being in jeopardy, all the students immediately listen."



Julian Radlein started Evergreen Sports Programming.

For now, only in Alberta

The word is out that the NHL's next outdoor game will take place next season at Fenway Park in Boston. And with it, comes complaints from up here that the league is avoiding holding one in Canada.

Yet the reason is simple. At this moment, there is only one outdoor stadium in this entire nation that seats more than 40,000 people — Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, the very field that hosted the NHL's first outdoor venture in 2003.

While it might make you feel warm and fuzzy to imagine NHLers taking the ice at Montreal's Percival Molson Stadium or Toronto's BMO Field, these games aren't staged to make the league feel warm and fuzzy. They are staged to maximize profit, and that (and that alone) is the only reason they are staged. When you sell 40,000 tickets to a hockey game, you double your gate in addition to swelling TV numbers.

Aside from Commonwealth, McMahon Stadium in Calgary is the only current outdoor venue in the country worth doing it in.

With 36,000 seats, it has 17,000 more than the Pengrowth Saddledome (and only about 2,000 fewer than



metronews.ca/sports

Fenway). BMO? Twenty thousand, or merely 2,000 more than the Air Canada Centre. Similar story with Molson Stadium and the Bell Centre. The Big Owe? Sorry, the roof's screwed on tight now. The Rogers Centre? Sorry, no on-field drainage system. The retractable-roofed version of Vancouver's B.C. Place? Possible, but unbuilt as of yet.

Some corners have said the Ottawa Senators could play a game on the Rideau Canal. My advice to them would be to not smoke marijuana before making suggestions where the Ottawa Senators play outdoor games. A frozen waterway with 40,000 temporary metal seats? That's even more temporary seating than most Grey Cup games.

And anybody think about the luxury suites? It's doubtful Eugene Melnyk or any other owner would look the other way on that sweet action.

John Chick is Metro Canada's sports editor.
john.chick@metronews.ca



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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Logan, the two-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONews.CA

Metro readers' Best friends

• Metro would like thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.



Here's Ziggy the seven-year-old Bernese.



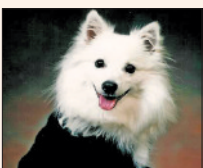
This is Chewbacca, acting all crazy.



Here's Bronte, making friends with a groundhog.



Here's Lemmy, rocking out on the piano.



Here's Cessena, who's been sick for a long time, but recently celebrated being 10.

Pet store a labour of love

Happy customers key to success: Owner

Paws and Claws

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada

While franchise heavyweights have come and gone, Menagerie Pet Shop in Toronto has kept growing and defying the odds for almost three decades.

The independently owned store which spans three storefronts at 549-553 Parliament St. has been a neighbourhood staple for the last 29 years in a success story that surprises even its owner.

Menagerie owner Garen Yaghejian, 49, says he started the shop in 1980 as a labour of love when he was just 20, hoping at best to keep the store afloat for a while.

"I was a grade nine dropout who just loved animals. Menagerie started as a fun thing and then grew and grew and grew," Yaghejian said.

Born in Cairo, Egypt, to Armenian parents, Yaghejian grew up learning about animals from his dad who bred a variety of pets as a hobby.

Yaghejian bought the store's location and leftover stock from a previous owner in 1980, rebranding the shop and spending every last dime he had on renovations. Menagerie's first incarnation was a tiny 350-square-foot space but grew with its success to take over



A staff member helps customers at the Menagerie Pet Shop. The store's owner says that listening to customer feedback has helped the independent store thrive against the larger pet store franchises.

the two larger adjoining storefronts and expand to nine or ten times its starting size today.

While he has no secrets as to why the store has prospered for all these years, particularly in the face of stiff competition from larger pet store franchises, Yaghejian suspects it may have something to do with his focus on customer service.

"We've kept up with the big chains that have come through here over the years. I think it's because we treat people right and we don't give people a hard time when they bring pets back," he said.

Another likely reason for the store's success could be Yaghejian's philosophy of listening closely to customer feedback to decide

what to put on shelves.

"Customers dictate to us what they want so over the years we've listened and gotten the products that work for them," Yaghejian said.

Keeping staff happy has always been a priority for Yaghejian who insists on paying his workers well in order to keep them motivated, despite the financial challenges of running a pet store.

"The costs of doing business are very high and they keep going up. You have to run a lean operation to survive but you also have to find a decent balance. You can't just pay people seven or eight dollars an hour and expect everything to get done correctly," Yaghejian said.

Though the world of business can be challenging and often feel gloomy, Yaghejian says the best medicine is integrity, fairness and the occasional smile.

"You've got to have a positive outlook. Be honest and don't hesitate to treat customers fairly and your staff well," he said.

Post-grads back their schools

According to a new survey from the University Presidents' Council of British Columbia, 87.7 per cent of masters and doctoral graduates of five B.C. universities said they would recommend their university to prospective students. Royal Roads University graduates were more likely to recommend (94 per cent) their school than their counterparts at other institutions. UBC graduates rated their school's reputation higher than other participants. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Employee' rights backed by courts

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

As the economy dwindles, employers continue to seek creative means to reduce their bottom line. They have tightened budgets through dismissals, temporary layoffs and reduced hours, and by slashing more generous terms of compensation.

Some employees will resist these changes, and our courts are increasingly asked to intervene. As an Ontario court recently ruled, while employees have no legal entitlement to continued employment, they do retain some basic rights.

Just promoted, Darrell Wronko had

negotiated a new contract promising him two years' severance if he was fired. His elation was

short-lived. Shortly after signing the contract, his employer, Western Inventory Service Ltd., hired a new company president who reviewed Wronko's contract and determined that it had to be changed.

Considering Wronko to have negotiated a "sweetheart" deal for himself, Western's president sent him a letter enclosing a new contract that provided him with only seven months' severance in the event that he was fired. Relying on his current contract, Wronko refused to sign. As Wronko saw it, he had a deal and that deal could only be changed with his consent. In response, the president then sent Wronko a memo advising him that in two years' time, the clause in his contract would be changed.

Two years later, Western's president sent Wronko an email enclosing the new contract and advising him to either accept its revised terms or Western would not have a job for

him anymore. Believing that such a change could not be imposed on him, Wronko treated Western's ultimatum as though he had been terminated and sued for the original two years' severance that he had negotiated.

At trial, the court ruled that Western had a right to vary the terms of his contract by providing him with sufficient notice. If Wronko could be fired with two years' notice, then Western could amend his contract by providing him with an advance warning consisting of that same amount of time.

Wronko appealed the decision, and recently he succeeded. It wasn't sufficient for Western to simply provide Wronko with working notice that his contract would change. Western had to provide him with the ultimatum that he would lose his job right

from the start; otherwise, it could not be given credit for the two years' notice it gave him.

The Court of Appeal's judgment may be a sign of the times. Employers cannot adapt to new economic constraints at the expense of fundamental employee rights. The lessons for employees are clear:

- Once your employment commences, you have the option to reject any significant changes your employer wishes to introduce.

- Protest changes to your job in writing and insist on adherence to the original terms of your contract.

- Seek legal advice as soon as notice of the change is given rather than waiting for an important time period to elapse.

- Take notes of important conversations. Although credibility was not a turning point in Wronko's trial, the Court preferred his version of the events because he had made notes after disputed conversations.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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Travel

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Aztec exhibit

The British Museum in London will launch an exhibition called *Moctezuma: Aztec Ruler* on Sept. 24. One of the feature objects will be this turquoise mosaic and cedar wood mask from Mexico, which dates from the 15-16th century AD. Visit britishmuseum.org.

REUTERS

Exploring the Scottish countryside

Natural magnificence is the backdrop to this rural getaway

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News



If a rugged wilderness with golden eagles soaring overhead and expansive mountain ranges sounds like a setting that's only on offer in North America, maybe it's time for you to experience the natural magnificence of rural Scotland.

Your adventure should start in London when you board the Caledonian Sleeper train. This overnight train is a magical experience — you step on at London's hectic Euston Station, have a few beers in the bar carriage as you pass through England, put your head down in your cozy bunk, and when you're woken up with a cup of tea at 6 a.m., you find yourself in the wide-open Scottish countryside.

Our destination was Forest Lodge, a Victorian-era hunting lodge on the Atholl estate in Perthshire, in the heart of Scotland. The estate is also home to Blair Castle, which comes complete with suits of armour and hallways full of antlers, and is base to Europe's only private army, the Atholl Highlanders.

We got out in picturesque Pitlochry — where we had to wait for the local taxi company to deliver kids to school before driving us 40 minutes through the snow to the lodge.

Forest Lodge is like something out of an

Agatha Christie movie, a huge white house nestled in the crook of the valley. Inside there are comfortable bedrooms, a dining room with a banquet table for 20, a huge kitchen with a larder, and a living room with plump sofas, tartan curtains and an open fire.

There's even a gun room and a drying room where you can air your wet coat and your walking boots after a romp round the countryside. This is an aristocratic weekend without the price tag — the cost of accommodation and food is small when shared, and there's nowhere to squander your hard-earned cash on fancy restaurants, expensive pubs or silly souvenirs.

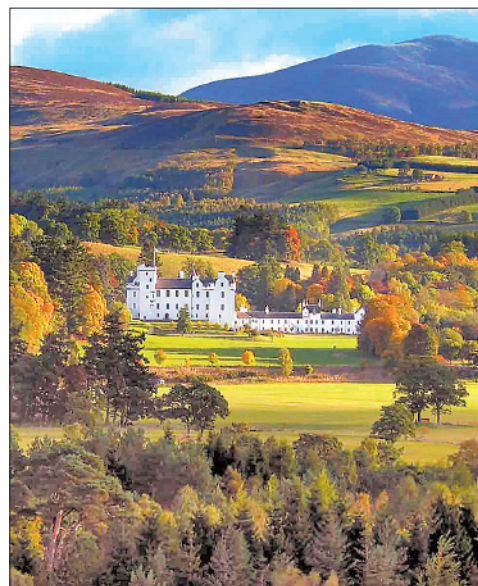
There is no mobile phone reception, just an ancient payphone with a crackly line, so you are forced to completely switch off.

It pays to plan ahead — there's no way to pop out for milk here. Calculate who's cooking what and you can have exactly what you need delivered by local grocers Tilt Stores. We arrived to find a larder bursting with fresh fruit, vegetables, meat reared on local farms, wine, and even some welcome snacks including shortbread and tablet, a sweet and tasty type of Scottish fudge that hits the spot when you've just hit the one of the local summits.

Deer hunting is a popular activity here — it's also



Left, on a riding adventure on the Atholl estate in Perthshire. Right, a view of Blair Castle.



Rural retreat

The Lodge

- Book Forest Lodge through Atholl Estates. There are lodges sleeping different numbers, each about £130 for three nights; athollestates.co.uk.

Getting there

- Book the Caledonian Sleeper from London at scotrail.co.uk. You can get a discount for a group booking

(for about \$270 a head), or watch for "bargain berths" — each month 1,200 single tickets are sold from £35 apiece.

Food delivery

- Local grocers Tilt Stores will source whatever you need, from fresh produce to wine and locally-sourced meat, tel. 01796 481 206.

METRO WORLD NEWS

essential for controlling numbers — but we chose a daily hike up the mountains instead.

Armed with an Ordnance Survey map that marks every contour of every elevation, we set off

to conquer the nearby munro, the name for a Scottish mountain with a height over 910 metres. Hiking fanatics call it "munro bagging" as they try to tick all 284 munros off their list, but one was more than enough for us novices. The two-hour trek to the top is rewarded with a plateau with mountains stretching for as far as the eye can see.

As well as eagles and grouse, there were flashing white tails of mountain hares darting away, and a huge herd of deer led up a ridge by a stately stag sil-

houetted against a radiant pink sunset.

After all that fresh air, it's time for for haggis canapés in the lounge, then a four-course banquet of smoked salmon, local lamb and pudding followed by port and cheese.

It would be difficult to leave this place at the end of the weekend, were it not for the fact that going back to London is also part of the adventure — after a full day admiring icicles in the river of the glen, we had another night of sleeper-train fun to keep us in good spirits.

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CityCenter, a \$9 billion development that was to become a 67-acre mini-metropolis of condominiums, hotels, shops and casinos in the middle of the Las Vegas Strip, is facing a funding crunch and an unclear future. **REUTERS**

Choose from a selection of spiritual journeys

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

From the tops of Machu Picchu, to the rose-red rock of Petra's canyon-like Siq, to the divinely-inspired churches of northern Ethiopia, there are plenty of places on earth that inspire. If you're looking for a holiday with a spiritual element, here are a few suggestions:

Korean retreat

Live like a monk at the Lotus Lantern International Meditation Centre. Lo-

cated two hours from Seoul, this 12-year-old Buddhist temple was designed for foreigners looking to study the religious philosophy of Zen Buddhism. Visitors sleep on traditional Korean cots, wake up at the crack of dawn (3:45 a.m., to be exact), slip into itchy grey training suits, eat simple food, wash their own dishes and meditate many times a day.

Sun rise in Namibia

Bordering South Africa and Botswana, Namibia is where the Atlantic Ocean meets the desert, and where rich wildlife and traditional African culture meet some of the world's most stunning sunrises. A popular tourist activity is climbing up Dune 45, one

of Namibia's many natural sand castles. The hike along the ridge isn't easy, but it's all worthwhile when you see the sun's warm, orange light illuminate the 80-million-year-old Namib Desert.

Get enlightened in India

Rishikesh, a holy city in northern India, is a place many travellers go to find themselves. It's a wildly popular spot on the banks of the Ganges River that draws Hindu pilgrims, new-age hippies, young Israeli backpackers and wise Babas who spend their days in the lotus position.

Located some 200 kilometres from Delhi, this self-proclaimed yoga capital of the world is packed with meditation centres, ashrams, Ayurvedic massage parlours, vegetarian restaurants and spiritual communities. With its nightly ceremonies along the river and vibe of collective spirituality, there's certainly something magical about Rishikesh.

Fountain of youth

For a look at the cradle



Rishikesh, a holy city in northern India, draws Babas, such as the one above, Hindu pilgrims and tourists looking for meaning.

of Incan civilization and a taste of her sacred waters, head to Isla del Sol on the shores of Bolivia's sacred Lake Titicaca. On the south end of the island, walk up 200 steps to a sacred spring that's said to be the foun-

tain of youth. A sip of the rejuvenating water is not only refreshing, it's an important part of Incan tradition. With a name that's sure to get grade-school kids giggling, Lake Titicaca is also the highest naviga-

ble body of water in world — which means you may have difficulty differentiating between your own spiritual enlightenment and good old-fashion altitude sickness.

Awestruck underwater

Off the coast of Tofu beach, come face-to-face with some of the world's gentlest underwater giants. In an ocean safari offered by Bamboozi Backpackers lodge, tourists can swim alongside majestic manta rays, dolphins and even whale sharks, the world's largest living fish.

Fear not — despite their threatening size, whale sharks only eat plankton, not humans. Snorkeling with these prehistoric-looking beasts is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will leave you awestruck. Just keep a bottle of white vinegar handy in case of jellyfish stings.

For more information on swimming with whale sharks, visit bamboozi beachlodge.com

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN; julia@metronews.ca

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Metro Drive

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian student car wins

A student team from Laval University in Quebec topped more than 500 students from North and South America to win the 2009 Shell Eco-marathon Americas. The team took the grand prize in the prototype division, with a combustion-engine vehicle that achieved 1,172.2 km per litre.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Toyota Prius a driver's car

Hybrid aims to win hearts without compromising green thinking

ROB BEINTEMA
for Metro Canada

I'm standing on the gas, the pedal flat to the floor and that's where it's gonna stay, fuel economy be damned.

We're leaving the flats of the Napa Valley, spiraling up into the Mayacamas, trees and rock face blurring past, engine moaning, tires gripping nicely, only the occasional peep-peep-peep of traction and stability control warnings as I go into a hairpin corner too hot, you know, one of those corners where you almost have to look behind yourself to see where you're going. Then, back on the gas and we are clawing towards yet another curve on the mountain road.

And, no, you're not reading the wrong story.

This is the 2010 Toyota Prius, the third and latest generation of the fuel-efficient, low-emissions hybrid dear to the hearts of the 14,000 or so environmentally-sensitive Cana-

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

Go
Green

ans who have bought one since its introduction a decade ago.

To build a car that appeals to a broader audience while staying true to the environmental expectations of the faithful, over 2000 engineers worked on a product that boasts a long list of firsts along with over 1000 patents.

The 2010 Prius starts on the MC platform shared with Scion XB. The previous Prius had all the soulless enameur of a science project — econo car trappings and no-nonsense trim topped by a utilitarian little shifter sticking awkwardly out of the dash.

The 2010 Prius is a driver's car, with true cockpit feel courtesy of a raised console in "freeform geometric design", mounting a handsome little shifter

that's so cute you just want to hang onto it. The layout is complemented by a sporty oval steering wheel, push button start, new graphic displays, soft touch padded materials, more comfortable seating and a leaf pattern grain texture on dash, door panels and fabric.

But enough about looks, let's get to the meat of the matter.

The Prius' Hybrid Synergy Drive is ninety per cent new for 2010. Unlike most other hybrid vehicles available, Prius has always been a "full" hybrid, allowing it to run on engine alone, battery alone, or both.

The powertrain improvements start with a bigger 1.8-litre DOHC gasoline engine. Other improvements come with the new engine, a lighter electric motor and generator, improved cooling to components, more compact battery packaging, a lighter transaxle, an improved CVT transmission and, importantly for Cana-

da, an exhaust heat recovery system that was winter-tested in Timmins, Ont., and that proved to provide quicker warm-up and better cold weather fuel efficiency.

The net result? Twenty-

two per cent more power and seven percent less fuel consumption. The 2010 Prius is rated at 3.8L/100km combined, better than the previous model's 4.1L/100km rating.

2010 Toyota Prius

Type: Mid-size hybrid sedan
Price: Not available

Engine: 2ZR-FXE 1.8-litre VVT-i DOHC four-cylinder with electric motor assist (134 hp / 105 lb-ft of torque).

HP: 3.7/4.0/3.8L/100km (city/hwy/comb)



The 2010 Toyota Prius has more room, more power, and, of course improved fuel efficiency.

Nissan roadster unveiled

DEBUT The 2010 Nissan 370Z roadster made its global debut at the recent New York auto show, wowing visitors with its classic open-air sports car looks.

The roadster shares its engine, transmissions, sus-



pension, platform and most major components with the coupe. The cutting-edge technology includes the standard 332-horsepower 3.7-litre DOHC V6 engine and choice of 7-speed automatic transmission or close-ratio six-speed manual with available SynchroRev Match (the world's first synchronized downshift rev matching manual transmission).

"The 370Z Roadster delivers the same exceptional

performance offered in the Coupe and more refinement than any other Z convertible that has come before," said Jeff Parent, vice president of sales and marketing, Nissan Canada Inc. "Features such as its one-touch, auto-locking convertible top and beautifully crafted interior might be unexpected in a car this sporty."

The Z(R) Roadster is expected in Canadian Nissan dealerships in late summer.

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9.2L/100KM - 31MPG CITY*

Vehicle shown with optional equipment. *Based on unadjusted city fuel economy from EPA (10/08) and VCA (5/08). EPA-estimated 49 city/44 hwy mpg (5.8 city/6.4 hwy L/100km) 2009 Escape Hybrid with eCVT, front wheel drive.

*Class is Small SUV. EPA-estimated 31 city/39 hwy mpg (9.2 city/7.2 hwy L/100km).

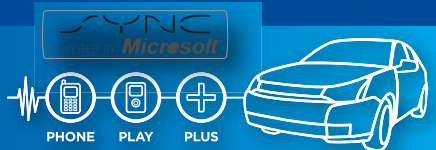
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Fun heart of Soul

Kia impresses with new compact SUV

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News



One of several new boxy cars coming out, this new Kia is not just full of soul, it's stylish and it's also a huge amount of fun.

The Korean carmaker's compact SUV is its most distinctive design yet and set to be a trailblazer for the brand.

New design director and Audi TT designer Peter Schreyer has produced a striking car with faux-4x4 credentials. It has boxy

2010 Kia Soul

Type: Compact SUV
Price: from \$15,495
Engine: 1.6 litre
HP: 124 bhp

Highlights

- Wallet-friendly, eco-friendly off-roader
- Fun to drive

practicality as a 4x4, but is obviously cheaper to buy and far more economical — and ecological — than a real off-roader.

There's a selection of fun coloured exteriors and original interiors — including a dogtooth pattern. There are three special editions including the Diva and Samba, but it's the Soul's Burner that's the bomb — this bad boy comes in black with red highlights, a dragon design on the outside, hot black wheels and a flashy red and white interior.

looks along the same lines as the Nissan Cube, Honda Element and Scion xB, is high off the road and it also offers the same in-town



Metro Global Motoring
Editor Emma E Forrest poses
with the 2010 Kia Soul

This model also has a brilliant feature — red lights in the speakers that flash in time with the music you're listening to.

These things are essential

for the type of driver that Kia expects to appeal to, a young, urban crowd like you, who will want to ferry their friends around and maybe not mind so much

that the boot won't fit more than one baby buggy. It all adds to the fun experience of driving this car — it feels solid, but is also nippy and agile.

Carbon fibre catching on

AutoPilot

Michael
Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

"Carbon fibre is incredibly strong and stiff for its weight."

At first blush the just-released Mercedes-Benz SLR Stirling Moss might not appear to be the ideal subject to discuss today ... to-day being Earth Day.

Some of you might even suggest that such an extravagant vehicle shouldn't even be built in the first place. Well, you sort of have your wish, because they're only making 75 of them. There, happy now?

But everyone and everything has a part to play in moving towards more Earth-respectful human mobility — even, surprisingly, a \$500,000-plus sports car that can only carry two people and about 18 minutes worth of luggage.

The part played by this, and the other models in the SLR range (roadster and coupe), is advancing the use of carbon fibre in "mass produced" production vehicles.

Carbon fibre is incredibly strong and stiff for its weight. As such, it's become the material of choice for such things as hockey sticks, tennis and badminton racquets, and now bicycles frames. (I play a bit of hockey and badminton, so when they get around to making

a beer bottle out of the stuff, I figure my leisure time will be carbon-fibre complete.)

Its strength comes from the way it's made — strands are layered and woven together in specific patterns, and each time out, it's done differently, to precisely fit the task at hand. Not dissimilar to the way Mother Nature goes about building her stuff.

But such a customized and fussy process, adds much cost and time. And the raw material for carbon fibre is already way more expensive than aluminum or steel.

The SLR is unique not only because its body panels are made of carbon fibre, but also its superstructure. This body shell is made by McLaren — the same firm that builds McLaren F1 racing cars. F1 is where all the big envelope pushing gets done, when it comes to carbon fibre and four wheels.

Mercedes and McLaren have developed material and process systems to speed up both the creation and assembly of carbon fibre components. The team took their cues from the textile in-

dustry, as some of the automated systems resemble weaving machines.

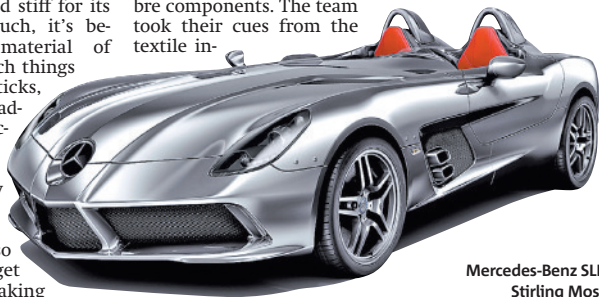
High heat areas, such as engines and exhausts, will always be made of metal for the foreseeable future, but how about everything else?

In an email interview, James Banks, Mercedes' body function manager, said, "It is quite feasible that small structural parts could start appearing on production cars within the next few years ... Personally, I believe carbon fibre crash systems and class A bodywork are the two areas of the automobile that are likely to see the biggest advances in the coming years."

When this does happen, it will be another example of trickle-down technology, in the constant pursuit to make all cars safer and lighter and more fuel-efficient.

And if you have to build something high, to get the necessary gravity, you could do worse than this gorgeous SLR, built as a homage to the original SLR that racing legend, Stirling Moss, which famously drove to a succession of victories in 1955.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



Mercedes-Benz SLR
Stirling Moss



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Putting brakes on teen drivers

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada



When your teenager takes out the family car, you may not always know where he is. But thanks to Ford's new MyKey system, you'll have a better idea of what he's doing.

Debuting on the 2010 Focus and planned for several more models, MyKey is a no-charge standard feature that limits the car's top speed, prevents the traction control from being disabled, chimes warnings at pre-set speeds, encourages seatbelt use, and caps the volume on the audio system. It works through the message centre in the instrument cluster, and is invisible to drivers who don't want to use it.

Parents program keys through the ignition, turning them into "MyKey keys." These trigger the pre-set system when they're used to start the car, limiting what the vehicle will do.

One key always remains the "administrator," and is



Ford's innovative technology MyKey will be a standard feature on the 2010 Focus.

used to program others; it also lets parents operate the vehicle without limits. The MyKeys can be wiped clean or reprogrammed at any time, if desired. Any microchipped key can become a MyKey, whether it's one of the keys that comes with the car, or purchased from the dealer.

Starting the car with a MyKey always triggers three automatic defaults.

The regular seatbelt reminder chimes, but the stereo won't work until the driver has buckled up, as well as any front-seat passenger. The low-fuel warning comes on at 120 km to empty, rather than the usual 80 km notice. And if the vehicle is equipped with special safety features such as Park Aid or the new Blind Spot Information System, these

can't be disabled by the driver.

Beyond those, parents can also program in speed alert chimes at 72, 88 or 105 km/h; the inability to disable the traction control; a limit of 44 per cent of the stereo's volume; and a limited top speed of 130 km/h. (That's higher than most of Canada's speed limits, but it's permissible on some U.S. highways,

"Buckle up, watch your speed, and turn down the radio are the three things parents ask."

Ford's Kerri Stoakley

and Ford determined that the car must be driveable everywhere.)

And if your teen's a technology wizard, fear not. "The system tracks the kilometres, and so the parents can see if the MyKey is being used," said Kerri Stoakley, Ford's communications manager.

Research found that while most teens initially disliked the system, they were more in favour if they thought it would lead to greater driving privileges.

"Buckle up, watch your speed, and turn down the radio are the three things parents ask," Stoakley said. "So mom and dad might give more seat time with the system. It's a good reminder to children that they need to drive safely."

FCX Clarity, Gold win top honours

AWARD The all-new Volkswagen Golf edged out the Toyota iQ and the Ford Fiesta to bag the 2009 World Car of the Year title at the recent New York International Auto Show.

The sixth generation Golf made its first appearance at the Paris Motor Show last fall, and was unveiled in North America at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto this February.

Honda's FCX Clarity took home the eco-friendly honours in New York as it was named the 2009 World Green Car.

The FCX Clarity, a sleekly styled hydrogen fuel cell-powered sedan currently available on a limited lease-basis, is powered by an electric motor that runs on electricity generated by an on-board fuel cell stack.

The vehicle's only emission is water, and its fuel efficiency is up to three times that of a modern gasoline-powered automobile and two times that of a gasoline-powered hybrid vehicle. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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*Base MSRP of \$25,635/\$16,660/\$29,150 for new 2009 Jetta TDI Clean Diesel / Golf City / Tiguan with manual transmission. MSRP of new Jetta TDI Clean Diesel / Golf City / Tiguan as shown is \$33,458/\$20,031/\$35,550. Models shown for illustrative purposes only. Some features shown are optional. Freight and PDI of \$1,360 for Jetta TDI Clean Diesel and Golf City and \$1,575 for Tiguan included. License, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and applicable taxes are extra. Dealer may sell for less. **Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance on approved credit. 0% APR financing available for up to 36 months. Financing example: MSRP of a new 2009 Jetta TDI Clean Diesel base model with manual transmission is \$25,635; financed at 0% APR up to 36 months equals \$712.08 per month. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is \$0 for a total obligation of \$25,635. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and applicable taxes are extra. At participating Volkswagen dealerships only. Offer ends June 30, 2009 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Supplies limited. See dealer or visit vw.ca for details. *For more information see GreenCarJournal.com. **Up to \$750 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. *Check with your Volkswagen dealer before purchasing to make sure that your vehicle qualifies for a PST reduction. Used vehicles and vehicles purchased outside of Canada are not eligible for this program. For more information on the qualification for the PST reduction for fuel-efficient vehicles, visit www.livesmartbc.ca/transportation/7_rebates.html. "Volkswagen", "Jetta", "Tiguan" and the Volkswagen logo are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Golf City" and "Das Auto & Design" are trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Autobahn for All" is a trademark of Volkswagen Group Canada Inc. "Green Car of the Year" is a registered trademark of R.J. Cogan Specialty Publications Group, Inc. © 2009 Volkswagen Canada.

Porsche thrills for the people

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada



When Porsche announced it was pulling out of most major auto shows this year and last year, it caused waves in the industry.

In an effort to thrill would-be customers into buying, the company decided to throw its full weight behind its World Roadshow, a travelling circus of Porsche vehicles and personnel that provides the ultimate test drive.

While this is the roadshow's 11th year, it's being held in Canada for the first time. The event kicked off last week at the Mosport International Raceway near Toronto and is scheduled to end this Friday.

The goal is to run 350 prospective buyers through a one-day program, in the hope, as one official put it, of spreading "the Porsche virus."

The program involves different activities, ranging from performance testing a 911 Turbo Cabriolet, to using a Cayman S or Boxster S around a slalom course, to off-road driving with a number of Cayenne models, and, of course, lapping Mosport's challenging



The Cayenne was among Porsche's fleet at the World Roadshow.

“(People) experience for themselves just what makes our vehicles so special.”

Porsche Canada's
Jasmin Rawlinson

four-km circuit.

The machines in use to pound around the road course are a great mix of models, from a basic-but-focused 911 C2S with sport-chrono package and six-speed manual, to a more relaxed 911 Targa 4 with PDK, Porsche's new twin-clutch automatic gearbox.

There was a full-on track-oriented Cayman S with body-hugging one-piece sport seats, PDK and carbon brakes that was a real favourite on media day, while the bright-copper

Cayenne GTS at the tail didn't hold anyone up, with the large SUV easily hitting 190 km/h up the Andretti Straight.

"The Porsche World Roadshow is a large, ambitious event," said Jasmin Rawlinson, Porsche Canada's director of marketing.

"Experience with the roadshow in other countries has proven the best way to sell Porsches is to put people behind the wheel. This way, they experience for themselves just what makes our vehicles so special."

Porsche Canada is hoping for to attract a good number of orders from the event, especially as "eighty-plus per cent of the people sent to the event have never owned a Porsche before," Laurance Yap, public relations manager for Porsche Canada, explains.



Porsche Canada allowed its would-be customers to test drive its models at the World Roadshow.



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ford.ca

Daimler testing car2go

TESTING Daimler is bringing its innovative mobility concept to the U.S. by the fall of this year.

The first international pilot will start in the Texas capital Austin with an initial fleet of about 200 fuel-efficient smart fortwo cars.

Called car2go, it provides a simple, flexible, and cost-effective solution for city driving. The U.S. introduction coincides with the expansion of the pilot in Ulm, Germany, where the company opened the service to the public on March 26 after the internal test which started last October.

The car2go concept is based on a fleet of Smart fortwo vehicles which are available for rent to registered members at any time, 24/7, making city driving as easy as using a mobile phone.

Contrary to traditional car-sharing programs, car2go offers the freedom



Daimler will bring its innovative mobility concept to the U.S. by the fall this year with an initial fleet of about 200 fuel-efficient Smart fortwo cars available for rent to members.

to get in a car and drive at any time of day without reserving a car in advance.

The vehicle can then be used for as long as required and returned to any

available parking location within the defined area of operation, a mobility solution offering maximum flexibility.

FROM CARGUIDE

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Earth hits big screen

New doc an impressive companion piece to BBC series

Earth

Director: Alastair Fothergill, Mark Linefield
Stars: James Earl Jones and a variety of cuddly animals
Classification: G
Rating: Ⓜ

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Filmed at the same time as the BBC series *Planet Earth*, Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linefield's *Earth* is a remarkable achievement of nature documentary filmmaking.

The movie is filled with the beautiful cinematography that defined *Planet Earth* even if it isn't quite as intellectually satisfying.

It is impossible to watch *Earth* without comparing it to its predecessor, and while the confines of a 90-minute movie funded by Disney prevents the filmmakers from capturing the depth of the series, this is still an impressive companion piece that demands to be seen on the big screen.

The longer running time and family-focus of this feature forced the filmmakers to construct a narrative out of the footage captured for *Earth*. Fothergill and Linefield have structured their film around three families of animals (polar bears, whales, and elephants) embarking on epic journeys across their natural habitats.

The narrative device works, but limits what the filmmakers are able to explore thematically and the



A male Superb Bird of Paradise displays its feathers to attract a mate in the documentary *Earth*.

Screen times

- Park Theatre Vancouver: Wed-Thru 4-7-9
- Tinseltown: Wed-Thru 12:20-2:30-4:45-7-9:15
- Esplanade 6: Wed-Thru 7-9:15
- SilverCity Riverport: Wed-Thru
- 12:15-2:35-5-7:30-10
- SilverCity Metropolis: Wed-Thru 12:15-2:35-5-7:30-10:10
- SilverCity Coquitlam: Wed-Thru 12-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:40
- Strawberry Hill Grande: Wed-Thru 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
- Studio 12 Guildford: Wed-Thru 1:30-4-7-9:15

• Times are subject to change. Complete listings are also available at metronews.ca/movies.

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

Go Green



definition photography that sold countless copies of *Planet Earth* Blu-rays really comes alive on the big screen.

This is a film that simply must be seen in a theater and will hopefully find a wider audience than most nature documentaries. James Earl Jones' com-

manding voice provides the narration that links the movie together (oddly Patrick Stewart narrated the movie in Europe, but not here) and just might cause audiences to burst into applause when he utters "the circle of life."

Though hardly perfect and less impressive than its small screen predecessor, *Earth* is still a wonderful film sure to please family audiences tired of the usual Zac Efron tripe.

Harrison Ford leads new green initiative

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News



He immortalized Indiana Jones. He has been People Magazine's Sexiest Man Alive.

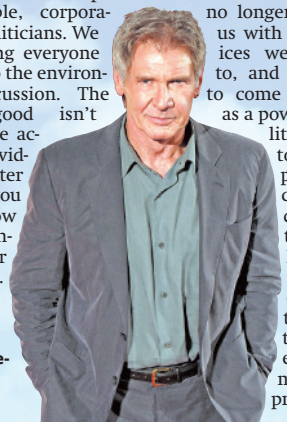
One of the most successful film actors of all time, Harrison Ford is also a long-time environmental activist. Recently he waxed his chest in a TV commercial to highlight the effects of deforestation. Now Ford unveils — in a Metro exclusive — his new environmental campaign: Team Earth.

Team Earth (teamearth.org) will launch worldwide on World Environment Day, June 5.

Q How is Team Earth different from other green campaigns?

A We're trying to bring together people from every avenue of life, for example young people, corporations and politicians. We want to bring everyone together into the environmental discussion. The common good isn't served by the actions of individuals, no matter how right you are and how well you conduct your personal life.

Q Why did you decide to get involved?



A I've been deeply involved in environmental issues for a long time, so it was an easy decision. I sit on the board of Conservation International, and that's a board where you don't just sit; you act.

Q Do you have a green lifestyle?

A I do what I can. I recycle and do other everyday things. I fly an airplane, but I buy carbon credits, though I must say I'm not totally convinced by the concept of carbon credits.

Q We're constantly told to drive less and consume less energy. What else can regular people do to help the environment?

A Conserve and protect water. Reduce waste. Don't buy products with toxic materials. The Earth can no longer provide us with the services we're used to, and we have to come together as a powerful political force to make politicians understand that. We have to make it clear to them that the environment is a priority.

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2010 Honda Insight

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Gallagher, Brand ring Obama

Noel Gallagher and Russell Brand phoned U.S. President Barack Obama to quiz him about soccer. The pair made a call to the American leader during their radio show on British station talkSPORT, which aired Sunday night. They left a voice message. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



When obsession goes wrong

Female stalkers always seem to get their due in male-dominated Hollywood

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Movie feature

The thriller *Obsessed* may be best summed-up with the proverb, "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."

The film — which opens this Friday — stars Ali Larter as an office temp who becomes so enamored with a co-worker, she sets out to ruin his marriage. As the title implies, it's an infatuation that knows no boundaries.

It's not necessarily a novel idea however. Swinfan, Single White Female, Notes on a Scandal and Vanilla Sky are just some films that explore a similar trend of female-rooted obsession. It seems instead of the traditionally bewitching femme fatale archetype, writers are more frequently devising roles where women become the stalker.

Although the notion of

what has been described as the fixated "psycho femme" was introduced in 1971's *Play Misty For Me*, "When most people think of (1987's) *Fatal Attraction*, (they think of) the ultimate case of obsession-gone-wrong," says Dominique Mainon.

Co-author of the book *Cinema of Obsession*, Mainon has studied erotic fixation on film and describes the "female gaze" as influential to the recent gender-flipping trend in movies.

"The female gaze is a quasi-feminist perspective where the woman is trying to enforce her own ideals with men instead of the other way around," says Mainon, noting that while this quasi-feminist dimension may seem empowering at first, the "psycho femme" always gets her due in male-dominated



Idris Elba, left, and Ali Larter in a scene from Screen Gems' new thriller *Obsessed*.

Hollywood.

"For the most part, it's always presented as a dysfunction when you see the

woman in charge like that," says Mainon. "She's almost always considered emotionally isolated; she

has dysfunctional relationships; she's never, in the end, getting married, going off and having a good life."

"I think everyone gets mixed up between love and possession at one point or another."

Dominique Mainon

While the deviant character may suffer on-screen, theatre owners are hoping the premise of an obsessed woman will at least fill multiplex seats this weekend. After all, as the popularity of past thrillers has dictated, cult audiences do obsess over the archetype of the "psycho femme."

"I think people want to live vicariously through these characters," says Mainon. "This is just a chance to escape and imagine what it would be like. Whether people carry it out or not, I think everyone gets mixed up between love and possession at one point or another."

Studios aim young as adults avoid movie theatres

Pricey, star-driven thrillers and dramas will struggle for profitability as the recession intensifies a trend toward youth-dominated movies that can open big.

That's the consensus after the weekend's soft opening for Russell Crowe-starring thriller *State of Play*. The Universal film, about an investigative journalist, is the latest in a series of misfires by adult-oriented releases. The movie rung up just \$14.1 million US over its first frame, meaning the film must perform significantly overseas for the \$60 million production to break even.

The picture's travails reflect this rude awakening in Hollywood: Older demographics may be resisting moviegoing. Certainly it's been months since anything has caught fire at the art houses.

But it's the ill-fated outings of studios' highest-profile adult fare that has stirred the most concern.

"Not as many adults are going to the movies because of the recession," a highly placed studio executive lamented. "More and more, it's the kids who come out and support the pictures over opening weekend, and not as much the older adults."

The good news is that ticket sales are pacing



Russell Crowe and Rachel McAdams star in a scene from *State of Play*. Despite generally positive reviews, the film made only \$14.1 million US in its first weekend in theatres.

ahead of last year's by a healthy single-digit percentage, and box office is up by a double-digit margin on a calendar-year basis. In

fact, the market has been so robust it can produce even the odd adult-driven success: Fox's Liam Neeson-starring *Taken* — produced

for under \$30 million — rang up \$218 million in worldwide box office after unspooling in January.

"The success of *Taken* has a lot to do with the audience rooting so hard for Liam Neeson to find his daughter in the picture," Fox distribution president Bruce Snyder said.

Marketing also figures prominently in any success or failure at the box office.

"Adults are a harder audience to motivate, and the problem with some adult movies is compounded by their not being high-concept films that you can boil down to 30-second spots," a top studio executive said.

"With *Taken*, it was, 'You took my kid, motherf—er, and you're going to pay.'"

A succession of adult-oriented box-office laggards has been noticeable for at least six months.

Universal absorbed a bottom-line hit with its Julia Roberts/Clive Owens-topped *Duplicity*, a mere \$39 million domestic performer through five week-

ends. Warners registered a similar sum with the thriller *Body of Lies* — an October opener starring Crowe and Leonardo DiCaprio that performed better overseas, but only by a modest margin — while Sony's political thriller *The International* unspooled over Valentine's Day and raked in less than \$50 million worldwide. **REUTERS**

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Fans of Julie Chen have been anticipating it for years, and the news is finally here: The *Early Show* and *Big Brother* host is pregnant, according to Page Six. She and husband Les Moonves are expecting the child in October. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

A long and winding Rhoda

Simpsons voice Julie Kavner lauds DVD release of her '70s sitcom

Ironically, for an actor so indelibly identified by her distinctive voice, Julie Kavner remains adamantly unwilling to talk.

Kavner has, for the past 20 years, preferred to let her animated alter-ego Marge Simpson do all the talking for her, eschewing public appearances, and refusing to be videotaped or photographed at work.

She is so notoriously press-shy — she once snuck out in the middle of an ensemble interview on *Inside the Actors Studio* — she has been branded a virtual recluse.

And yet, here she is on the phone — and there is no mistaking that throaty rasp, which has been described, not inaccurately, as the sound of “honeyed gravel.”

“It’s true,” she concedes, “I tend not to like (being interviewed). But this was something I really wanted

to talk about.”

“This” being the long-overdue DVD release of the seminal '70s sitcom spinoff *Rhoda*. The first-season set hit stores yesterday, to coincide with the show's 35th anniversary. “It was about time,” Kavner complains. “I mean, they put everything else out there ...” Though her Simpsons success has guaranteed financial security for several lifetimes — last year she and her castmates negotiated a per-episode pay

“It was always, always about the work ... none of that, you know, diva bulls—.”

Actor Julie Kavner

bump to \$500,000 — *Rhoda* remains closest to her heart. “It gave me my life, it gave me my career, it gave me the love of my

life, David Davis.”

Davis, with whom she has lived since the '70s, was also responsible for kick-starting her career, calling her in “as a favour to a family friend” to read for a one-shot role as Rhoda's sister on Mary Tyler Moore. She didn't get it. “A year later,” she says, “they

the scenes) David Davis and James L. Brooks and Lorenzo Music and Allan

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spun off the show, and David remembered me and brought me back in.”

This time, Kavner won the role of Brenda Morgenstern, the sitcom poster-girl for low self-esteem ... initially, both on and off screen, having suddenly found herself surrounded on all sides by seasoned television professionals. “Valerie Harper and Nancy Walker and Hal Gould and David Groh ... and (behind

Burns ... I was the new one. It was my first paying job.

“But they couldn't have been nicer and more welcoming. It was always, always about the work ... none of that, you know, diva bulls—.”

Rhoda earned Kavner the first of two Emmys (the second was for *The Simpsons*), and yet, when it was cancelled after 4 1/2 seasons, she found herself



A publicity shot of Julie Kavner as she appeared during her days as Brenda Morgenstern on the 1970s TV series *Rhoda*.

slumming it on the dinner-theatre circuit, including a fondly remembered tour of Western Canada.

In the early '80s she had a guest shot on *Taxi* as yet another sitcom sister (Tony Banta's, played by Tony Danza), and then five years later made an extraordinary leap to the big screen and her first Woody Allen

film, *Hannah and her Sisters*.

It was shortly after her second, Allen's *Radio Days*, that sitcom serendipity struck again and she was rehired by her old Rhoda boss, James L. Brooks, for the unmatched ensemble of Tracey Ullman's revolutionary Fox sketch show.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VA	Yu	Su	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
251	308	3	CBC	News (N)	Laughs	Marple: The Murder at the Vicarage (2004) Derek Jacobi (CC)	CBC News: The National (N)	(:05) The Hour				
255	358	3	JOY	El News (N)	The Insider	Better Off Ted Better Off Ted	Janice Dickinson Modeling	Running-Heels Kardashians	News (N)			
254	-	3	M	Two/Half Men	The Insider	Omni News: Mandarin Edition	News: Cantonese Edition	Omni News: Punjabi Edition	Metropia			
250	321	3	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	CSI: NY (CC)	American Idol (CC)	Criminal Minds (N) (CC)	News (N)			
-	-	3	OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (Part 2 of 2)	Third Watch "Duty" (CC)	Scrub (CC) Buddhism	New Day			
252	336	3	ETV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Lie to Me "Better Half" (N)	Bones "The Girl in the Mask"	(:02) The Unusuals (N) (CC)	News (N)			
256	389	3	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)	Lost (N) (CC)	Law & Order "Pledge" (CC)	News (N)			
253	359	3	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Scrub (N) Friends (CC)	Nip/Tuck (CC)	Murdoch Mysteries (N)	The List			
-	-	3	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)	90210 (CC)	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)			
289	381	3	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine Gary Unnarr	Criminal Minds (CC)	Criminal Minds (N) (CC)	News (N)			
287	379	3	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Law & Order "By Perjury"	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order "Pledge" (CC)	News (N)			
602	568	3	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag Grocery Bag	Supersize vs. Superskinny	Stuck (N) Maxed Out	Maxed Out			
288	380	3	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrub (N) Better Off Ted	Lost (N) (CC)	(:02) The Unusuals (N) (CC)	KOMO 4 News			
-	-	3	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Star Crazy *** (1980, Comedy)	Gene Wilder, Richard Pryor.	King Still Standing	Scrub (CC)			
291	383	3	PBS	Steves Europe	West Coast	Secrets of the Dead	Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean	Adventures (N) (CC) (DVS)	Victor Forge			
290	382	3	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me "Better Half" (N)	American Idol (CC)	News (N) (CC)	Family Guy			
-	364	3	PBS	JM Cousteau: Ocean		Keeping Up Being Served	Tavis Smiley Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	Work Home Family Court	Paid Program			
296	554	3	CBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC) South Park	Cheers (CC) Half & Half	Work Home Family Court	Paid Program			
298	553	3	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)	90210 (CC)	KTLA Prime News (CC)	Friends (CC)			
295	551	3	WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Accord-Jim Sex and-City	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids			
297	552	3	WPX	PIX News at Ten (N) (N)	Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Accord-Jim Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)			
199	311	3	STR	News (N)	News	Late Show-Letterman	Late Late Show	Will & Grace Seinfeld				
502	390	3	NW	CBC News: The National (N)	CBC News: The National (N)	CBC News: The National (N)	CBC News: The National	Planet Earth "Fresh Water"	National			
500	500	3	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)	Cooper 360			
407	419	3	RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Rays at Seattle Mariners. (Subject to Blackout)	NHL Hockey: West Quarterfinal - Blackhawks at Flames	SportsCentre	Sportsnet Connected Live	Sportsnet			
400	400	3	TSN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures (CC)	Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter			
411	457	3	OLN	Score Tonight	Score Tonight	Hardcore Hockey Talk	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score			
410	403	3	SCR	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride Pass Time	Thunder	Pinks Out	Pinks			
417	406	3	SC	Footballers	Footballers	Go! TV News Samba	Foot Brazil	Go! TV News	Paid Program			
416	409	3	GLF	In Real Life "E.R." (CC)	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior "Ottawa"	Falcon Beach "Desperados"	Go! TV News			
552	543	3	YTV	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken			
555	545	3	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han, Montana	Zack & Cody	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School			
553	546	3	KNO	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Go, Diego, Go!			
268	354	3	TRE	Canada-Undiscovered Land	India with Sanjeev Bhaskar	Opera in the Outback An evening of song. (CC)	Opera in the Outback	Opera in the Outback	Franklin			
575	583	3	MMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally "2002"	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)			
570	580	3	CMT	Instant Star	Instant Star	Crooked X	Hooking Up	Paris Hilton's British Friend	disBand			
600	564	3	H&G	House	House	Holmes	Holmes	Unsellable	City			
615	520	3	A&E	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators	Exterminators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter			
628	584	3	SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)	Deadliest Warrior	Jon & Kate Plus 8 Go Green!	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Spoke's Most Amazing Videos			
521	560	3	TL	Moving Up "Design Divas"	Cashing In	Law & Order "Evil Breeds"	Without a Trace (CC)	Trading Spouses	The Starter Wife "Mollywood"			
616	522	3	SHO	The Outer Limits "Birthright"	Law & Order "Evil Breeds"	ET Canada "Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC	Dirty Jobs "Vellum Maker"	Red Shoe			
620	523	3	BVO	Southland "Mozambique"	Daily Planet (CC)	Life After People (CC)	MythBusters Alarm solutions.	NCIS "Designated Target"	Paradise Hotel			
601	562	3	SVC	End of Leash	End of Leash	Stargate SG-1 "Sentinel"	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	Star Trek: Ent.			
520	505	3	DIS	Mayday "Invisible Killer"	Life After People (CC)	Stargate SG-1 "Sentinel"	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	Star Trek: Ent.			
522	506	3	HIS	NCIS "Designated Target"	Stargate SG-1 "Sentinel"	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Out of Time ** (2003) (PA) Denzel Washington. (CC)	Mystery Diag.			
628	528	3	SBC	Stormworld	Grand Star	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Married... With			
294	505	3	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Married... With			
619	525	3	TROP	Vanities	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Married... With			
603	561	3	FN	Ultimate Recipe Showdown	Opening Soon	Opening Soon	Unwrapped	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In			
626	547	3	COM	Air Force	Just for Laughs (CC)	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	Jon Dore	Martin			
320	621	3	CEN	(6:10) Away From Her ***	Flow (2008, Documentary) Premiere.	MTV Live	College Life	Beatdown	Real World-Road Rules			
581	566	3	MTV	Real World-Road Rules	MTV Live	College Life	College Life	Beatdown	Real World-Road Rules			
261	394	3	V	Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist: The Legacy	The Day the Earth Stood Still *** (1951) Michael Rennie.	Real World-Road Rules	Real World-Road Rules			
-	-	3	MUL	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino	Sabor Musical			

critics'corner

The New Adventures of Old Christine

Ex-husband Richard (Clark Gregg) joins Christine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) on a dinner date with her new boyfriend, Patrick (guest star Tim DeKay, "Tell Me You Love Me"), in "So You Think You Can Date." Hamish Linklater, Emily Ruthertford and Wanda Sykes also star. 8 PM on CBS



Criminal Minds

Trying to hold a family together while reviewing a series of child abductions and murders, Rossi and Hotchner (Joe Mantegna, Thomas Gibson) and the rest of the team realize that one of the cases may not actually be the work of the serial killer they arrested. John Allen Nelson and Gretchen Egolf guest star in the new episode "A Shade of Gray." Paget Brewster and Shemar Moore also star. 10 PM on CBS

In brief

LOS ANGELES Just days after its national board approved a new contract for television and film, the Screen Actors Guild said it plans to lay off about 35 employees, or about eight per cent of the staff. "To close a gap between the guild's expected revenue and costs in the upcoming fiscal year budget, SAG is undertaking a number of expense reductions, including the elimination of some staff positions," SAG spokesperson Pamela Greenwald said. **HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

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TONIGHT

PARIS HILTON'S
BRITISH BEST FRIEND (6 & 9PM)

THURSDAY

DADDY'S GIRLS (6 & 9PM)

FRIDAY

DOGG AFTER DARK (6PM)
MUCHMOVIE: BATMAN FOREVER (9PM)

MUCHMUSIC.COM/69ER



Welsh actor Ioan Gruffudd, who starred in *Fantastic Four*, and his English wife, actress Alice Evans, are expecting a baby, his rep confirms to People. This will be the first child for the couple. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay to star in burlesque?

CAREER Lindsay Lohan has sparked rumours she's signed on to appear in a new topless Las Vegas stage act, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The star, 22, reportedly flew to Sin City on Saturday to attend the grand opening of sexy striptease production *Peepshow* and meet with its creator, Broadway direc-



tor and choreographer Jerry Mitchell.

Former Spice Girl Melanie Brown kicked off her stint in the show last week, which features celebrities in rotating lead roles.

According to Fox News, Lohan is in talks with Mitchell to take over from actress Kelly Monaco when the star leaves the show to

return to U.S. soap opera *General Hospital*.

A spokesperson for Lohan had not returned requests for comment.

Lohan has seen her acting career almost disappear in the last 12 months, with her last movie, *I Know Who Killed Me*, universally panned; Lohan's performance garnered her a Razzie. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Farrah's worried son exaggerates: Pal

PEOPLE Farrah Fawcett's best friend Alana Stewart has dismissed claims made by the actress' son in court, telling a judge his mom's cancer problems had reduced her to a skeletal 86 pounds, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Redmond O'Neal made the shocking claim in court last week during a hearing stemming from drug charges against him, but Stewart insists the 24-year-old is mistaken. She

tells people.com, "Farrah is not 86 pounds. Redmond is young and overreacted a little. Farrah has lost weight, but not that much."

Stewart also revealed Fawcett is planning to pay back O'Neal's father — her ex Ryan — for all his support by hosting a 68th birthday party for the actor on Monday night. Stewart adds,

"Ryan has really been there for Farrah in such a wonderful way." Stewart insists Fawcett is on the path to recovery following a hospital stay this

month.

She explains, "I just saw her ... She had colour in her face and was talking and laughing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



JT and Jessica still together

RELATIONSHIP Ever since Justin Timberlake was spotted "very much acting like a single guy" at Kate Hudson's 30th birthday party over the weekend, according to *Us Weekly*, rumours have been swirling that he and girlfriend Jessica Biel have split up.

But friends of the couple say that couldn't be further from the truth. "They have not split," a source says, according to *Hollyscoop*.

Another adds: "Things are very good with them. They do things separately sometimes."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Life at the Affleck-Garner home

FAMILY Ben Affleck may have many talents when it comes to parenting three-year-old daughter Violet, but according to his wife Jennifer Garner hairdressing isn't one of them, people.com reports.

"Ben will do the school run," Garner, 35, tells *InStyle* of her family's morning routine. "He dresses her and does her hair. It's pretty funny. You can always tell when he has been at it, just two random barrettes hanging in there. It's so sweet."

Adds Garner: "Ben can be pretty clueless when it comes to my clothes or makeup. But when he does notice and says something,

he's so sweet that I forgive him."

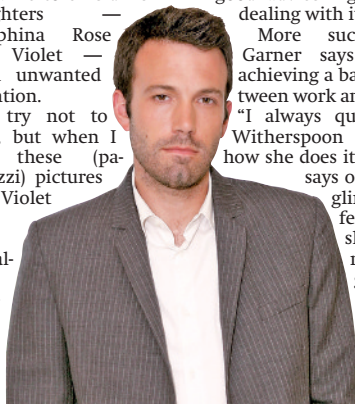
As for her own role, Garner aims to shield her daughters — Seraphina Rose and Violet — from unwanted attention.

"I try not to look, but when I see these (paparazzi) pictures of Violet and me, I'm always smiling like a

monkey, trying not to let her feel my anxiety," she says. "That was some really good advice I got about dealing with it."

More successfully, Garner says she is achieving a balance between work and family. "I always quiz Reese Witherspoon about how she does it," Garner says of the juggling act. "I feel like she does a really good job."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Chinese ire over Chan's comments

OPINION Jackie Chan has been facing a good deal of backlash in his native country for comments he made last week at a business forum in Hainan, a southern Chinese island, according to *MSNBC*.

"I'm not sure if it's good to have freedom or not. If you're too free, you're like

the way Hong Kong is now. It's very chaotic. Taiwan is also chaotic."

"I'm gradually beginning to feel that we Chinese need to be controlled. If we're not being controlled, we'll just do what we want," Chan said.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Naked pics no shoe ad

SCANDAL The pictures of Kanye West and his naked girlfriend, Amber Rose are not for a Louis Vuitton campaign, as originally thought, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

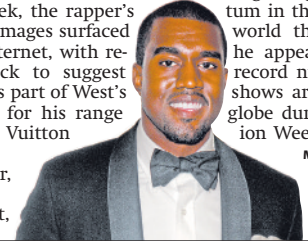
Last week, the rapper's personal images surfaced on the Internet, with reports quick to suggest that it was part of West's campaign for his range of Louis Vuitton sneakers.

However, according to *The Cut*,

sources have confirmed to them that the images are not part of any campaign for the fashion house.

West's desire to ditch music for designing seems to be gaining momentum in the fashion world though, as he appeared at a record number of shows around the globe during Fashion Week season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

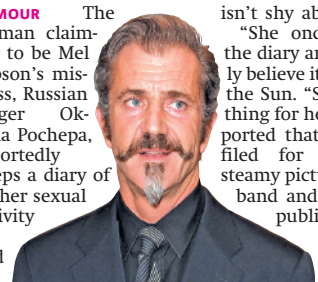


Secret sex diary?

RUMOUR The woman claiming to be Mel Gibson's mistress, Russian singer Oksana Pochepa, reportedly keeps a diary of all her sexual activity — and

isn't shy about sharing it. "She once showed me the diary and I could barely believe it," a source tells the Sun. "Sex is the main thing for her." It's been reported that Gibson's wife filed for divorce after steamy pictures of her husband and Pochepa were published.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Swayze 'kicking butt'

ILLNESS Whoopi Goldberg tells *usmagazine.com* her cancer-stricken *Ghost* co-star Patrick Swayze is "doing the best he can."

"He's kicking butt," she told the magazine. "And, you know, he's sick. And he, like the rest of us, doesn't know when it's going to happen — because it will happen, that he is going to go — but he doesn't know when or where."

"His attitude is, why wait for it to happen?" she went on. "So he's busy as hell."

Since he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer more than a year ago, the 56-year-old actor — who denied reports in March that he is nearing "the end" — has thrown himself into work.

He's writing a memoir and filmed the first season of A&E's crime drama, *The Beast*, which concludes tomorrow.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Judd's Indy race treat

PEOPLE Ashley Judd was given a special 41st birthday treat by her racing band on and the racer Dario Franchitti as he won the Long Beach Grand Prix in California, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

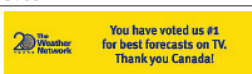
It was the speed star's second race back driving Indy cars after branching out as a

NASCAR driver last season. Judd was among Franchitti fans cheering her husband and the racer dedicated his victory to her.

After winning the race by defeating defending race champ Will Power, Franchitti said, "This is for her (Judd). It was good to finally win here in Long Beach."

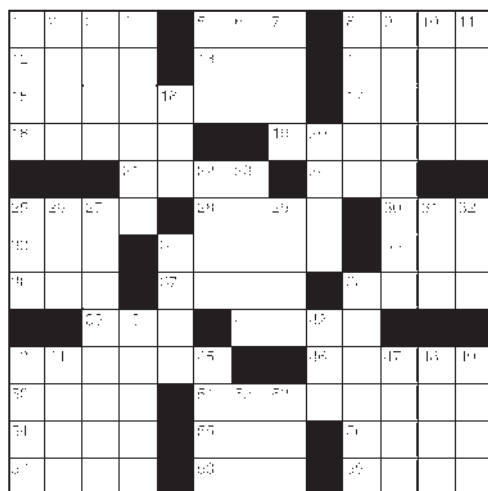
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Take Five



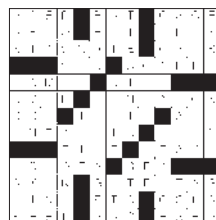
Crossword across

- 1 Overly theatrical
- 5 Pitcher's chapeau
- 8 Memo writer's "Now!"
- 12 Eastern bigwig
- 13 Actor Tognazzi
- 14 "Monopoly" pair
- 15 Buck
- 17 Bullets
- 18 Switchblade
- 19 Wet
- 21 Notion
- 24 Work with
- 25 Equitable
- 28 Culture medium
- 30 Eve, originally
- 33 "— Lay Dying"
- 34 Eugene O'Neill specialty
- 35 Geological period
- 36 Emeril's interjection
- 37 Con
- 38 Showing signs of aging
- 39 Skillet
- 41 Advantage
- 43 Caviar provider
- 46 Point of view
- 50 Valhalla VIP
- 51 Didn't quite boil
- 54 Schism
- 55 Excessively
- 56 Peruse
- 57 Piano lineup
- 58 Picnic invader
- 59 Distorted

Crossword down

- 1 Barrel
- 2 Infamous Idi
- 3 "La Boheme" role
- 4 Gain
- 5 Prompt
- 6 Earlier
- 7 Frogs' hangout
- 8 Either of two presidents
- 9 One with a silly smile
- 10 Pinnacle
- 11 Laborer
- 16 Started
- 20 Emanation
- 22 Have coming
- 23 Marble variety
- 25 Poke
- 26 Dos Passos trilogy
- 27 Clear up
- 29 In the thick of
- 31 401(k) alternative
- 32 Cove
- 34 "Phooey!"
- 38 Groups of species
- 40 Some of the family
- 42 Whale group
- 43 Jurist Robert
- 44 Actress Falco
- 45 "The Thin Man" dog
- 47 Got bigger
- 48 Mad king of literature
- 49 Vortex
- 52 Charged bit
- 53 Witticism

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	9	4	6	1	3	5	8	2
6	3	8	9	2	5	1	4	7
1	2	5	4	8	7	9	3	6
2	8	7	5	3	9	6	1	4
5	6	9	7	4	1	8	2	3
3	4	1	2	6	8	7	5	9
8	5	6	3	9	2	4	7	1
4	7	3	1	5	6	2	9	8
9	1	2	8	7	4	3	6	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

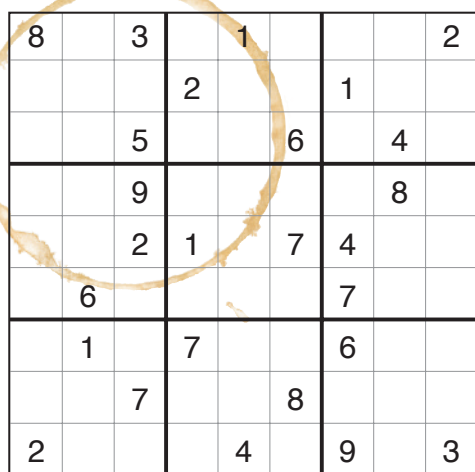
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

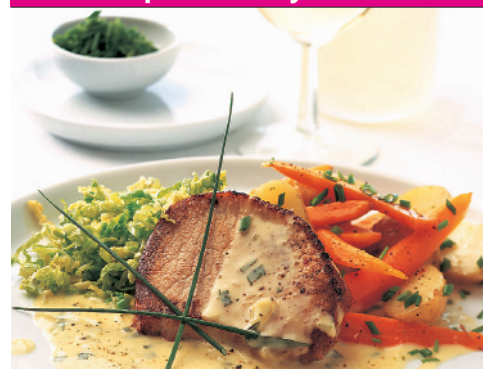
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Metro Recipe of the Day



Pork with Mustard Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tsp (5 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 boneless pork loin chops, 3/4 in. (2 cm) thick, trimmed of all fat
- 4 tbsp (60 mL) dry white wine or vermouth
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken or vegetable stock
- 2 tsp (10 mL) cornstarch mixed with 1 tbsp (15 mL) water
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh tarragon
- Salt and fresh-ground black pepper
- Fresh chives

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large nonstick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add pork chops and fry until brown, 3 minutes per side. Transfer to plate; set aside and keep warm.

2. Add wine or vermouth to pan with garlic and let bubble briefly. Pour in stock and boil 2 minutes. Stir together cornstarch mixture and sour cream until smooth. Add to hot cooking liquid, stirring well. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring constantly, until thick and smooth, 2 minutes. Stir in mustard and tarragon and season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Return pork chops to sauce in the pan. Reduce heat to low, cover pan, and simmer until chops are cooked through, 4 to 5 minutes.
4. Arrange pork chops on warm plates and spoon sauce over. Garnish with chives.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone wants to protest but won't. You'll find out who has too much to do. A mysterious woman becomes cynical.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Plans are made but somebody is going to leave early. Refuse to wear yourself out for anyone. You'll be told things that you should already know.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You'll get credit for something you didn't do. Demanding people strongly affect your mood. Don't focus on a thoughtless remark.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Happiness is found by someone in love. You'll work behind the scenes. Keep an open mind when you kick off a debate.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't be stubborn if you want to change your mind. Something complex sets off emotional responses. Things will work out for the best.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You'll benefit from good luck. Don't strain the patience of a close friend. A determined stranger appears to be triumphant.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
People want to know what needs to be done. It's time to be a visionary. Use your common sense.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
An acquaintance is moody about attention-grabbing. An expert understands your feelings. A victim makes an admission of guilt.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone wants to change your life. A frantic woman makes a phone call. You're not sure if something is true.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Prepare for a change after a friend offers support. A pitiless challenger won't panic. Budgeting could result in success.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A player supplies some sensible advice. Someone makes you lose time. A rebel enjoys a truth-seeking session.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Obligations are questioned by someone with concerns. Provide support during a health crisis. Don't cringe about a money problem.





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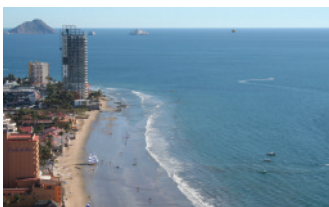


*Small coffee only. Limit one per customer, per visit. Not available with any Extra Value Meal or value picks® offer. *Opening hours vary by restaurant. Until 11am on weekends. ©2009 McDonald's.



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Auckland & Rotorua
Starter Package

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Self Drive

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+ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES 8-day intermediate car rental roundtrip from Christchurch, 7 nights accom, Milford Sound Red Boat cruise and sightseeing & admission fees as per itinerary on this self-drive tour. **HIGHLIGHTS** Aoraki-Mount Cook National Park, Royal Albatross Colony, Queenstown, World Heritage Fiordland National Park & Franz Josef Glacier.

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+ taxes & fees \$457

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 7 nights 3-star central accom with daily breakfast. **ADD** London Eye & Thames River sightseeing cruise from \$45.

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+ taxes & fees \$340

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FROM **\$639**
+ local payment EUR150

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Thailand

FROM **\$689**
+ local payment USD250

INCLUDES all accom, transportation, some meals, tour leader and local guides on this 14-day small group tour exploring Tribal Thailand. **HIGHLIGHTS** Bangkok, River Kwai, Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai, hilltribe trek, Golden Triangle, Chiang Rai, elephant ride and bamboo river rafting.

Africa Victoria Falls
to Cape Town

FROM **\$1539**
+ local payment USD400

INCLUDES all accom, transportation, most meals, tour leader and local guides on this 21-day small group tour from Victoria Falls to Cape Town exploring south western Africa. **HIGHLIGHTS** game drives, the world's highest sand dunes, bush walking in the Kalahari, wilderness camping, canoeing in the Okavango Delta and the mighty Victoria Falls.

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ADVENTURES

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4-STAR
FROM **\$696**
+ taxes & fees \$327

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

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FROM **\$699**
+ taxes & fees \$149

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 7 nights 3-star accom in famous Waikiki. **ADD** Polynesian sunset dinner and show cruise from \$75.

Puerto Vallarta
4-Star

FROM **\$847**
+ taxes & fees \$264

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

Los Cabos 5-Star

FROM **\$897**
+ taxes & fees \$264

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 5-star all-inclusive accom.

Cozumel 4.5-Star

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+ taxes & fees \$299

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